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TORONTO • [illegible]MBER 14, 2009 metronews

Celebrity Buzz

Hudson shares holiday cheer

pg 37

Cold record smashed in Edmonton

WEATHER An official with Environment Canada said temperatures in the Edmonton area Saturday night were among the coldest anywhere in the country.

-46C

Edmonton set a new cold record Saturday night with a bone-chilling temperature reading of –46 C.

Peter Spiker, a meteorologist with the weather agency, said the coldest temperature in Canada was recorded at the Edmonton airport, dipping down to a frigid –46 C. He said that crushed the previous record of about –33 C, set in 1968.

Spiker said record low temperatures were also set in other areas of Alberta.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News on the Move

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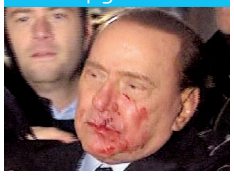
World pg 18



Italian PM assaulted

On the web

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NBA

Raptors rebound

FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Toronto Raptors forward Chris Bosh, left, shoots over Houston Rockets forward Luis Scola yesterday during first-half NBA action at the ACC. Bosh scored 27 points and had six rebounds as the Raptors ended a two-game losing streak with a 101-88 victory. More coverage, page 26.

Cherry picking

CBC defends hockey icon

Don Cherry has gotten away with promoting violence in hockey for too long when he should be leading the charge to stop hits to the head, says a renowned neurosurgeon, who came out swinging a day after calling the Canadian hockey icon a "negative influence" on the game.

"We've been too gentle with him over the years. We've allowed him to change the culture of hockey," Dr. Charles Tator told the Toronto Star yesterday after returning from Regina, where he told a conference on concussions that the rock 'em, sock 'em type of hockey Cherry preaches — and markets wildly popular videos of — only adds to the injury problem.

"And so now we have to speak up against this type of hockey. And if we could get him to change his message — if he came out with a safety message, if he came out strongly for safety and the elimination of hits to the head, then that would go a long way," said Tator, founder of the Think First Canada injury prevention program.

Calls to Cherry's home were not returned. Tator, who sees kids in his office every week with injuries from the sport, says he's hopeful the popular commentator will change his fighting ways.

But not everyone agrees Cherry's off-ice antics contribute to on-ice dangers. Even Tator gives Cherry credit for helping out with a campaign years ago to prevent neck injuries.

A statement from Hockey Night In Canada called Cherry a "leader in teaching tough, smart hockey" who "promotes respect amongst players at every level. Everyone who has watched Don over the years knows this, and any indication otherwise is misguided and a short-sighted misrepresentation of the facts."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

No new leads generated from TV crime show

MISSING The case of a Toronto teen who vanished on her way to school in September has grabbed headlines across the country.

Save for a recovered backpack and three unconfirmed sightings 3,500 kilometres away, investigators were unable to make any headway in the search for Mariam Makhniashvili.

So, on Saturday night, the case went to an international audience, with Makhniashvili profiled on America's Most Wanted.

The popular show profiles the cases of missing children and fugitives from justice, with the aim of helping police generate tips from viewers.

Officers at Toronto's 53 division, which is handling the case, said they hadn't received any new tips as of yesterday afternoon. Representatives of America's Most Wanted could not be reached for comment.

Makhniashvili was 17 when she disappeared Sept. 14, her fifth day of school at Forest Hill Collegiate Institute, near Bathurst Street and Eglinton Avenue West.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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We're good to go.

Thanks to the Power of Conversation.

THANK YOU TammyF for all your awesome posts. And **THANK YOU SO MUCH** to Rimone-N900 for all you said. **AND THANKS WITH ALL OUR HEART** to the mysteriously named anonymous. And **THANKS**, Johnn, that was great. To you, *Blade*, oh the mighty *Blade*, **WE MUST GIVE THANKS**. And **WORD** to captaincool, you really are. **THANKS** to ihaterogers, we really think you won't hate us. **THANK YOU** to Jonavin for all you typed. And nuckhead, **THANKS**, you're no nucklehead. **AND WE WOULD BE REMISS IF WE DIDN'T THANK** np for what you had to say. And **THANKS A MILL** to mccans for all your thoughtful comments. **THANKS** to Cole. And to SlothMerchnt, you might be slothful but you're pretty smart all the same, **SO THANKS**. **A BIG**, **BIG SHOUT OUT** to Ron. And mabdinur, **YOU ROCK**, you really do. **THANK YOU** to Clumpen. And **MUCHAS GRACIAS** to ss. We gotta say **CHEERS** to Robust for your, well, robust thoughts. And **THANKS** to yummy and your delicious ideas. **THANK YOU** to Dorkin T Wizzard, your words are truly magical. And **THANKS**, Michie, for your great posts. **THANKS** to scotts, you really rock. To SpeakTheTruth, that's just what you did, **SO THANKS FOR THAT**. And to future wind customer, we love your user name and your ideas, **KEEP IT UP**. kurolap, **WOW**, that was a killer tune, bro. And **THANK YOU** to TonyS. IA87, dude, **WE SALUTE YOU**, and we hope to give you what you want. And koop, **THANKS** for your tech perspective. To colem1 and ChrisP, **THANKS SO MUCH** for starting the online fan groups. **THANKS** to moto for steering us in the right direction. And vonfunk, **THANKS FOR THE FUNKY POSTS**, dude. In fact, we give a million thanks to all the good people, too numerous to mention here, who had an idea, a thoughtful comment, or even a query about bringing wireless change to this country. And, finally, a **SINCERE THANKS** to the Canadian Government for listening to you. Then responding with a resounding thumbs up for choice and competition **YOU ARE ALL PROOF THAT CONVERSATIONS REALLY DO MAKE THINGS BETTER**.

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Local

Vaccine push still on

The push to increase the number of people vaccinated in the province is still strong as Ontario's top health official warned people Friday not to become complacent about getting their H1N1 shot. "The impact of this illness on individuals and families has not been inconsequential," said Dr. Arlene King, left, Ontario's chief medical officer of health. King said the vaccine would be administered to people well into the spring. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Tomorrow's Metro

Comment Lawrence Martin gives us his take on the Canadian political scene.

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What's online today.

Immigration Guidy Mamann celebrates a victory for live-in caregivers after Ottawa unveils changes to the nanny program at **metronews.ca/immigration**

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Divided over the climate

Failure to address climate change may drive wedge between provinces: Ministers

Go Green

Canada's two largest provinces say they are confident the federal government will commit to stronger emission cuts before a global climate change conference comes to a close this week.

If that doesn't occur, the environment ministers from Ontario and Quebec say the normally harmonious relationship between Canada's 13 provinces and territories is headed down a rocky path.

Their grievance is long-standing and well-known. They fear the federal Conservatives are planning to cut Canada's greenhouse gas emissions on the backs of the provinces that have taken early action in the fight against global warming so Alberta and Saskatchewan will have room to further develop their vast oilsands resources trapped beneath the ground.

"I don't think it takes a genius to figure out that … they want to continue to develop those and obviously if they are developed there may have to be larger greenhouse gas emission (reductions) elsewhere in the country in order to meet our targets," Ontario Environment Minister John Gerretsen told reporters yesterday in Ottawa.

But it will be hard to remain chummy with the oil-rich provinces if the governments in Ontario, Quebec, British Columbia and Manitoba feel they're taking the hit for a boom on the Prairies.

"Whether or not it's going to be the next national unity issue, I'll leave that to the columnists and the journalists."
John Gerretsen, environment minister

"Whether or not it's going to be the next national unity issue, I'll leave that to the columnists and the journalists and other politicians to discuss in the future," Gerretsen said.

This week, Gerretsen and Quebec Environment Minister Line Beauchamp are joining forces to promote the work they are doing in their neighbouring provinces and to do whatever they can to push Ottawa into a more ambitious stance.

Canada has pledged to cut national emissions by 20 per cent from 2006 levels by 2020, a target that is less onerous than the Kyoto commitments the federal government signed up for in 1997. Federal Environment Minister Jim Prentice says his government's target is close to that of the United States, and it can't change because the two governments plan to harmonize their climate policies and create a North American carbon cap and emissions trading system.

Prentice brushed off the persistent criticism Canada has been facing from environmentalists as well as Toronto Mayor David Miller, who called Canada's stance at these talks "an embarrassment."

"I'm not going to comment on what other people here are doing, what they're saying about their country," the minister said yesterday.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE
MORE COVERAGE, PGS 14, 23

Smartphones key to new carrier's strategy

MOBILE As Globalive prepares to launch its Wind Mobile cellphone business in the coming days, it will use smartphones as one of its weapons to take on national players Rogers, Bell and Telus.

It will launch first in Toronto and Calgary and later in Ottawa, Edmonton and Vancouver with the goal of having a presence across Canada except Quebec.

It won't have Apple's much-desired iPhone like Rogers, Bell and Telus, but Wind Mobile will take advantage of the consumer trend toward high-performing phones in its choices.

RICK EGLINTON/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Ken Campbell, left, CEO of Wind Mobile, and Anthony Lacavera, chairman of Globalive and Wind Mobile, were all smiles last week as Ottawa signed off on their new mobile network.

"They tend to be smartphones because that's the way people use phones today," Wind Mobile CEO Ken Campbell said.

Wind Mobile will have BlackBerry, HTC and Samsung devices.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

MURDER Two men arranged the Oct. 5, 2002, execution-style murder of a Toronto drug dealer, a jury decided yesterday. Justice Michael Tulloch automatically sentenced Kien Binh Tu, 40, of Montreal, and Bao Quoc Nguyen, 38, of Mississauga to life in prison with no parole for a minimum 25 years. Quang Thi Nguyen, 31, was fatally shot just before 10 p.m. as he sat at a table in a Mississauga karaoke bar. He died later in hospital. Bao's brother, Bao Tri Nguyen, of Montreal, was also found guilty of accessory after the fact to murder. He remains in custody and will be sentenced at a later date. The shooter, a white man, has never been identified and remains unknown.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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December 14th until December 17th

the Bay

Three injured in bar fight

Three people were injured and one person was taken into custody after a fight at C-Lounge in the club district early yesterday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

HST is not a tax grab, report says

Ontario's controversial harmonized sales tax is "virtually revenue neutral" and not the cash grab critics say it is, argues a report to be released today.

The report by the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives says low- and modest-income families will come out slightly ahead under the Liberals' HST package, which includes increased property and sales tax credits and income tax cuts, while households with incomes more than $100,000 will come out just slightly behind.

"No group is significantly worse off or better off as a result of the province's HST plan," said Ernie Lightman, a University of Toronto economist and professor of social work who co-authored of Not a Tax Grab After All: A Second Look at Ontario's HST.

Even the researchers admit they were "surprised" to find a vast majority of Ontarians will either be slightly better off or unaffected by the tax changes.

"Assertions that this is a tax grab," Lightman said, "have no foundation in reality."

The NDP, both provincially and federally, have roundly condemned the next tax.

"It's basically kicking people when they are already down in terms of their financial situation," Ontario NDP Leader Andrea Horwath said last week.

"Ontarians have loudly and clearly rejected the idea of shifting the tax burden onto the backs of consumers while giving the corporate sector a huge tax giveaway," she added.

Both Horwath and B.C. NDP Leader Carole James emphasized the overwhelming majority of taxpayers in both provinces oppose the tax, which will increase levies on hundreds of goods and services, including home heating fuel, gasoline, taxi fares, haircuts and legal fees. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Critics

- Critics have argued the new 13 per cent HST — which blends Ontario's eight per cent provincial sales tax with the federal five per cent GST, and takes effect July 1 — is a way for the province to add $3.5 billion to its coffers. And the higher tax will apply to far more transactions.

MICHAEL STUPARYK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

George Smitherman acted as marshall, but did not take part in the second annual polar bear swim yesterday at Sunnyside Beach. The Wildlands League organized the swim to fight climate change and help protect Ontario's polar bears. About 40 to 50 people took the plunge.

Swimming to save polar bears

ENVIRONMENT Toronto Centre MPP George Smitherman was the celebrity swim marshal as dozens of people took part in a polar bear swim in a chilly Lake Ontario yesterday.

It was the second annual polar bear swim aimed at saving Ontario's polar bears.

The event was designed to draw attention to climate change and its effects on polar bear populations.

Smitherman told CP24 "there's power in each and every one of us to do our part" to ensure polar bears have some more of the ice that they need not just to survive, but to thrive.

The former deputy premier and Toronto mayoral hopeful says a trip last summer on the Sutton River in northern Ontario where he saw a young male polar bear on a ridge was something he will never forget.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Police ask public for help to find missing teen

SEARCH Toronto police are asking for the public's help in finding a teenage girl who has been missing for more than two weeks.

Police say Tiffany Ellis, 14, was last seen Nov. 26, at 5 p.m., in the McNicoll Avenue and Leslie Street area.

She is described as having a light-black complexion, standing 5-foot-5, weighing 160 pounds, with short, curly black hair.

She was wearing a black jacket, blue jeans and was carrying a black Jensport backpack.

Police say they are concerned for the teen's safety.

Anyone with information is asked to contact police at 416-808-3300, Crime Stoppers at 416-222-TIPS (8477), online at www.222tips.com, or text TOR and your message to CRIMES (274637).

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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87-year-old dies of crash injuries after apparent recovery

An 87-year-old woman who was thrown from the back seat during a crash at Finch Avenue and Don Mills Road last week has died after stumping doctors by appearing to make a recovery. The woman had suffered head injuries that were deemed by doctors as non-life-threatening. Her name has not been released. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

News in brief

STORM A day after southern Ontario's first major snowstorm of the season, cottage country was digging out and assessing the damage — including what may be the season's first weather-related death. Greg Shepherd, 60, was found in a snow drift near Bracebridge Saturday afternoon. Police believe that as Shepherd was digging out his truck from under a snowdrift, he suffered a heart attack and collapsed. He wasn't discovered until the following afternoon. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

Police seeking three suspects in Etobicoke sex assault case

CRIME Toronto police are looking for three men after a woman told police she was sexually assaulted for almost five hours.

The woman told police she left a bar and was attacked around 2 a.m. in the parking lot of Sir Adam Beck Junior School and the adjoining Sir Adam Beck Rink in Etobicoke early Saturday morning by three suspects, who are described as between 20 and 30 years old.

The first suspect is described as having a muscular, slim build with a swirl design shaved in the back of his head. He was wearing a white winter jacket with a grey-and-black fur-lined hood.

Police say the second suspect had a slim build and was wearing a green winter jacket with a fur-lined hood, red toque and shoes.

The third suspect is about 250 to 300 pounds and was wearing a black winter jacket with a fur-lined hood, grey toque, dark jeans, running shoes and a chain with a medallion shaped like the letter "P." **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

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This season, give the gift of a stress-free holiday shopping trip to yourself.

Last-minute shopping tips

You've got your list. You've checked it twice. It's time for the annual trip to the mall to get goodies for friends and family.

Here are some tips for finding those perfect items at Yorkdale Shopping Centre — one of the GTA's busiest malls — from general manager Anthony Casalanguida:

1 Take advantage of extended mall hours.

2 Make a list. And never forget about yourself. Pick something for you.

3 Plan your route. The mall's website (www.yorkdale.com) has an interactive directory that can help you make a map of the best route to do your shopping and even the closest parking lot.

4 Utilize valet parking. For $6 you can pretend that you're one of the rich and famous and leave your car for someone else to park

5 Dress for a long day. Wear a light jacket and comfortable shoes, and carry a light purse or pouch.

6 You can get your gifts wrapped at the mall's wrapping station so they look like a million bucks, and the money raised goes to a good cause — Project Humanity.

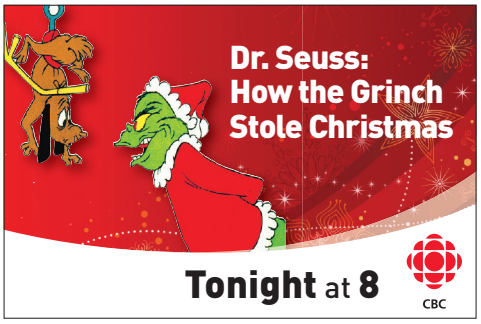
7 If you have to bring your kids, bring a stroller. If you forget, there are some available at the mall.

8 If you've been shopping for hours and feel dizzy or worn out, stop and get something to eat. Make sure you have water with you at all times.

9 Rather than doing everything at once look at making multiple trips to the mall.

10 And if the idea of going to the mall and doing battle with the crowds makes you want to throw up, never fear — you can always use a personal shopper. You can book one online for two hours for a deposit of $25. You get the money back in a gift certificate to use at the mall, and the personal shopping service ends up being free.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



Poverty activists protest TTC fare hike
A group of poverty activists gathered in Toronto Saturday to demonstrate against a transit fare hike that is expected to take effect in the new year. Members of the Ontario Coalition Against Poverty marched outside Nathan Phillips Square to protest the rising cost of public transit. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Rossi to enter mayor race

Liberal party's national director quits to run for T.O.'s top job

The tenuous unity of federal Liberals will be sorely tested by next year's mayoralty race in Toronto, as the party's national director prepares to throw his hat in the municipal ring.

Rocco Rossi confirmed late Friday that he's tendered his resignation as the party's top administrator and fundraiser, effective Dec. 31, and will announce today his intention to seek the mayor's chair.

"Running for mayor is something I've been thinking about for the better part of two years," Rossi said in a phone interview with The Canadian Press.

While he's enjoyed his year-long stint as national director of a party he's worked for since he was 11, Rossi pointed out he's been "a Torontonian since I was born."

"I guess this is the call of the blood."

Rossi, 47, was one of the few remaining members of leader Michael Ignatieff's inner circle left standing after a shakeup this fall that was designed to reverse the Liberal party's sharp decline in recent opinion polls. His candidacy will doubtless garner support from some Ignatieff loyalists.

But other federal Liberals are already backing former Ontario Liberal cabinet minister George Smitherman. Others, meanwhile, are backing former Ontario Conservative leader John Tory.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

ANDREW WALLACE/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE
Toronto mayoral hopeful Rocco Rossi is shown in this file photo.

Paid duty criticism 'nonsense': Chief

POLICING Police Chief Bill Blair has defended the paid duty system in Toronto and will address the issue at the police board meeting Thursday.

Blair, speaking during a recent radio program, slammed the Toronto Star exposé of the police force's system as "nonsense."

The probe found highly trained police officers rake in millions of dollars moonlighting as construction site guards, manhole watchers and other jobs that crossing guards or even pylons could do at a fraction of the cost.

In comments made on Newstalk 1010, Blair said paid duty increases the force's visibility around the city. He also maintains it costs the taxpayer nothing.

"It is a system that puts about 180 police officers on average in uniform out in the community every day, not at the taxpayer's expense but at private corporations' expense. And, frankly, those officers are still in uniform. They're still cops. They're still available to serve," Blair said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Paid duty wages

- The police paid duty business cleared $24.8 million last year. The off-duty officers are paid $65 per hour, nearly double the $37.40 a constable with four years of experience earns on duty.

All-day kindergarten worries educators

EDUCATION As Ontario swiftly ushers in full-day kindergarten in September, early childhood educators are panicked, anxiously waiting to see what will happen to their jobs, their centres and their profession.

The province is moving ahead with a costly $1.5-billion-a-year program that will enrol about 35,000 kids in full-day kindergarten next September, expanding to 50,000 kids in 2011. Under the new plan, teachers will work with early childhood educators (ECEs) in the classroom. But the province has spared little time rolling out the new initiative and this has left ECEs scrambling to find answers about the fate of their profession.

"I hope it's an opportunity to improve things despite the very real challenges and shortcomings of the initial implementation," said Carl Corter, of the Institute of Child Study at the University of Toronto. "I don't want to simply talk doomsday."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Heavy losses after pig barn fire
Losses are estimated around $410,000 after a pig barn fire early yesterday morning in North Middlesex, north of London, Ont. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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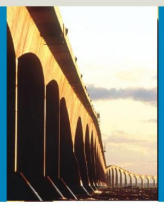

Bridge linking P.E.I., N.B. reopens

It's been a long wait for several truck drivers but the Confederation Bridge linking New Brunswick and P.E.I. is finally open again. Restrictions on high-sided vehicles were lifted yesterday. The span over the Northumberland Strait was closed to trucks and other high-sided vehicles early Friday because of strong winds. On Saturday, some gusts were clocked at 133 kilometres per hour. It's the longest stretch for restricted travel since the bridge opened in May 1997. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sex abuse inquiry set to release report

CORNWALL An inquiry spurred by murky rumours of a clandestine pedophile ring and cover-up conspiracy in eastern Ontario will release its final report tomorrow, four years after being struck.

The release is the culmination of the Cornwall inquiry, which ended up with a $53-million price tag examining institutional responses to historical allegations of sex abuse.

Some have questioned the value of an inquiry that spent so many years and so many dollars probing how public institutions operated decades ago, as practices governing how abuse allegations are dealt with have since changed.

The government estimates the final tab for the Ministry of the Attorney General will be $50 million, in addition to a $3.2-million special assistance grant for the city from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Social Housing for costs the city incurred up to March 31, 2007.

It has been 10 months since closing submissions, in which the pedophile-clan theory was cast as a fabrication spread by a misguided police officer and embraced by a panic-stricken community.

The Project Truth investigation, launched in 1997 and completed in 2001, resulted in 114 charges against 15 people.

Of the men charged only one was convicted. Four died before their cases came to trial, four were acquitted, four had their charges withdrawn and two had the charges against them stayed over delays.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Anti-terrorist law under review

National-security certificate system may be changed or scrapped: MP

The federal government has launched a sweeping review of a crumbling anti-terrorist law, acknowledging the system needs fixing, The Canadian Press has learned.

"We are working on it actively, very actively, and recognize that the current situation is not ideal — and that there is a need for change," Peter Van Loan, Canada's public safety minister, said in an exclusive interview.

The review of the rickety national-security certificate system could scrap or revamp a law used to arrest and deport non-Canadians considered a threat to national security.

Certificates have existed for three decades, and more than two dozen have been issued since 1991, when they became part of federal immigration law.

But legal challenges and upbraidings from judges over miscues by Canada's spy agency have seen recent cases slow to a crawl — or collapse altogether.

"I'm contemplating what we would do in the future, and whether that is an appropriate instrument," Van Loan said.

The government has initiated just six certificate cases — four terror suspects, a hatemonger and an alleged Russian spy — since the 9-11 attacks on the United States.

But for critics, the deportation tool has come to symbolize the worst excesses of the fight against Islamic extremism.

Opponents say the process is fundamentally unfair because detainees are not given full details of the allegations against them.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Palestinian Issam Al Yamani poses for a photo in Mississauga last week. Certificates levied against Al Yamani were thrown out by the courts on two occasions. He is still fighting a deportation order, saying he fears torture if sent back to Lebanon, his former home.

m.metronews.ca

U.S. agents working terror cases face an agonizing dilemma — risk the case by nabbing a suspect too early, or risk public safety by not acting quick enough. Scan this barcode for the full story.

Current cases

Four men held under national-security certificates are fighting to remain in Canada, saying they reject terrorism:

- Hassan Almrei: Arrested in October 2001. Government says the Syrian native's travel, activities and involvement in a false-document ring are consistent with supporters of Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network.
- Mohamed Harkat: Arrested in December 2002. The Algerian native, a former pizza delivery man and gas station attendant, is accused of being a collaborator with the bin Laden network.
- Mahmoud Jaballah: Arrested in March 1999. The Egyptian-born biology teacher is a purported senior member of the Egyptian terrorist group Al Jihad.
- Mohamed Zeki Mahjoub: Arrested in June 2000. Government alleges the one-time agriculture worker is a high-ranking member of an Egyptian Islamic terrorist organization.

RCMP dog smiles for camera after aiding drug bust

CRIME Most people can recognize when their dog is happy, but Otis, an RCMP chocolate Labrador retriever, doesn't leave anyone guessing.

Officers with the Mounties Road Safety Unit stopped a vehicle on Highway 33, about 30 kilometres east of Osoyoos, B.C., Thursday morning.

Officers knew something wasn't right and that's when they brought in Otis, who sniffed out about 1.5 kilograms of marijuana and several thousand dollars in cash.

Police used that discovery to get a search warrant for a home in Peachland, B.C., where they say they found a large marijuana grow operation, more cash and a power bypass.

Two men and a woman, all in their 20s, are under arrest.

A picture taken of Otis just after the bust shows the smiling, something that RCMP Cpl. Dan Moskaluk says makes him chuckle every time.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

RCMP HANDOUT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Otis, an RCMP chocolate Labrador retriever, poses for the camera after a B.C. drug bust last week.

News in brief

ZOO The Calgary Zoo has been subjected to unfair criticism for a string of animal deaths at the facility, president Clement Lanthier told a news conference Saturday. A little more than a week after a giant Central American capybara, known as the world's largest rodent, was crushed to death when a worker closed a hydraulic door on it, Lanthier said he will commission an independent review of how the facility cares for its animals. The worker involved in the death was suspended for two days without pay for ignoring protocol Dec. 5. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Windsor cops cleared in fatal crash

Windsor police have been cleared of wrongdoing in a crash that killed a woman in the city. The Special Investigations Unit has concluded there are no reasonable grounds to believe police committed any criminal offence. THE CANADIAN PRESS

COLIN PERKEL/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canadian Brig.-Gen. Daniel Menard guaranteed the army is doing its best to ensure humane treatment of Afghan prisoners.

General says army has learned from the past

AFGHANISTAN The presence of correctional services experts from Canada should go a long way to ensuring detainees handed over to Afghan authorities are treated humanely, says Canada's top commander in Kandahar.

In an interview, Brig.-Gen. Daniel Menard also said that halts to detainee transfers this year were for "procedural" reasons, not because of issues of abuse.

"We have learned an awful lot from the past," he said. "What I can guarantee you is that right now we have put in place everything in our power to ensure (humane treatment)."

A political firestorm has been raging over revelations that Canadian diplomat Richard Colvin repeatedly warned the government that Afghan detainees were being horrifically abused after Canadian soldiers handed them over to local authorities.

Menard expressed confidence that the problem had been addressed.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Inspirational torch carrier

Relay participant shows perseverance with Olympic feat

VANCOUVER 2010 Games

Steps away from the handoff, Greg Shulkin stopped his motorized scooter, unfurled the Olympic torch from its holster and, with a little help, slowly began to walk the final few paces of the relay.

He earned boisterous applause from his parents, brothers, nieces, nephews, friends and a few hundred flag-waving supporters who gathered last week to watch the flame pass through the town of St-Eustache, near Montreal.

Those few paces were his own Olympic feat. It's one being accomplished across the country by numerous people with serious — and in some cases terminal — illnesses who are getting the chance to carry the flame.

Shulkin contracted viral meningitis 17 years ago, fell into a coma for five weeks and suffered a heart attack that left him legally blind, unable to walk and reliant on dialysis to survive.

"I just want to show people you can overcome challenges if you put enough effort into it," said Shulkin, 35.

GRAHAM HUGHES/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Greg Shulkin, who contracted viral meningitis 17 years ago, fell into a coma for five weeks and suffered a heart attack that left him legally blind, carried the Vancouver 2010 Olympic torch last week through Saint Eustache near Montreal.

"Everyone is going to have hurdles in life — it's just how you approach them."

Shulkin is one of many anonymous torch bearers to win a moment in the spotlight as the Olympic flame criss-crosses the country on its 106-day journey to the 2010 Games in Vancouver.

He's not a celebrity, a politician, a community leader or an Olympian like most of the 12,000 people selected for a coveted spot along the 45,000-kilometre relay route.

Shulkin fits into the small category of those chosen for their perseverance in the face of life-threatening adversity.

The road to the Olympics is paved with setbacks, personal trials, and anguish.

Days before his mother was to give him a kidney, Shulkin had a massive stroke that left him paralysed on the left side.

After months of rehab, he finally got his kidney and, despite a grim prognosis from his doctor, he went on to complete an honours degree at Concordia University and write a book about his experience. He now works for his father's home-cleaning service and doubles as a motivational speaker.

For a once-avid football, baseball and basketball player who's now resolved to enjoy sports from the sidelines, the torch relay represented both a personal feat and a chance to inspire others.

On the web

- Follow the Olympic torch's journey with an interactive map at **metronews.ca/sports.**

Migrations could be altered: Experts

ARCTIC Mollusks from the Pacific could march into the Atlantic Ocean within decades because of the melting of Arctic sea ice, researchers in California say.

For mollusks to pass, the Arctic would need to have less than 75 per cent sea-ice cover for 125 consecutive days — something that could happen around 2050, according to an estimate two years ago by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

Experts say Pacific-to-Atlantic migration is probable for all kinds of sea life, including fish, crabs, sea stars, sea urchins and seaweed. THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

TRURO Members of council in Truro, N.S., are distancing themselves from remarks made earlier in the week by Mayor Bill Mills regarding a gay hookup spot in the town. At issue is a bylaw vote before council proposing to limit access to a street and park that is said to be a favourite meeting spot for gay men.

TRANSIT STRIKE A transit strike in London, Ont., could be over as early as today, but it may be as long as three weeks before full bus service resumes. The two sides announced Friday night they had reached a tentative deal in London's first transit strike in almost 30 years.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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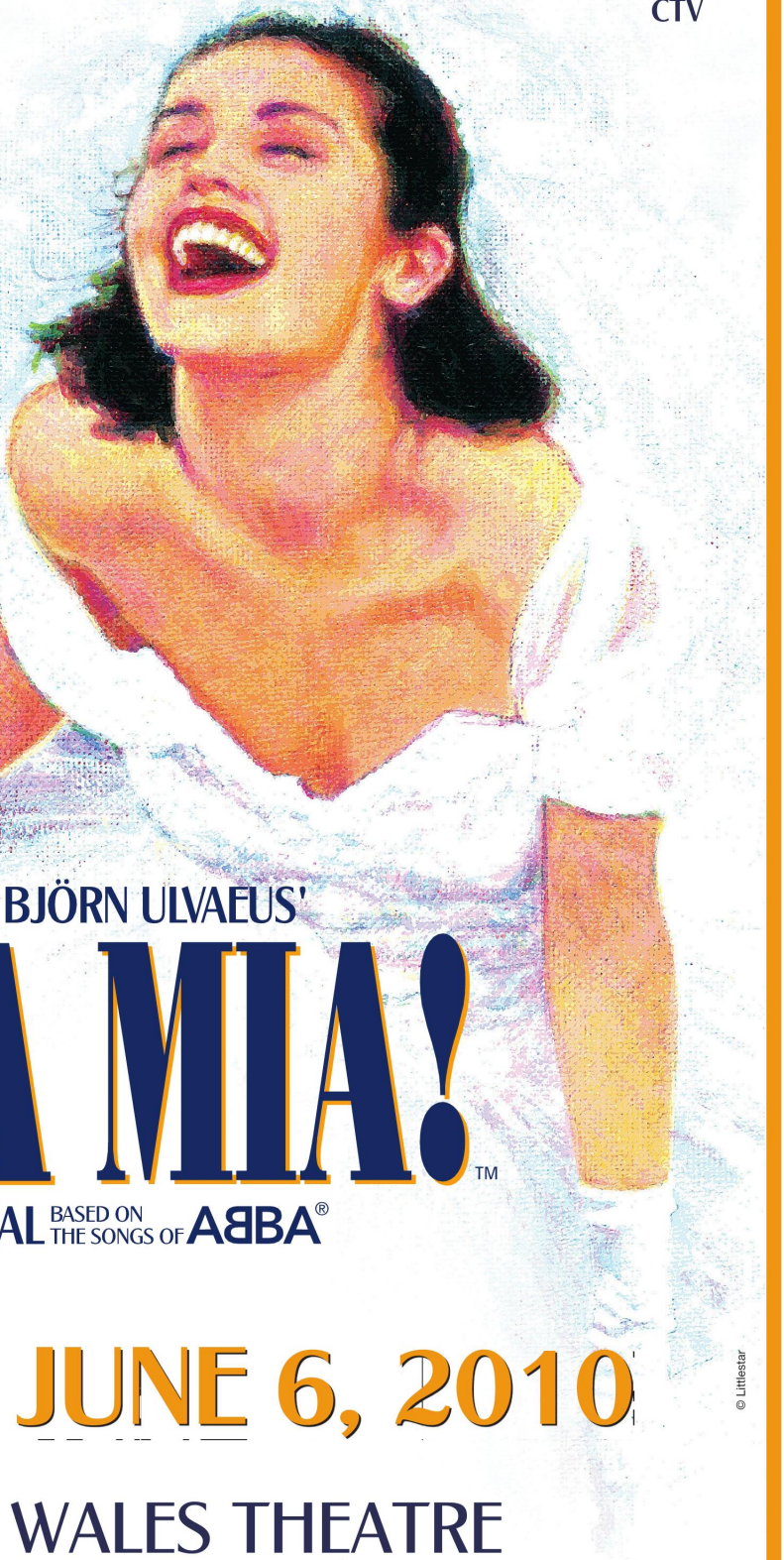

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Ottawa cops arrest 18-year-old in connection with attack

Ottawa police have arrested a second person in an assault that left a woman in a coma. Natalie Galipeau, 31, was trying to sell a bracelet online in August when she was attacked by someone responding to her ad. On Friday, police arrested an 18-year-old male. THE CANADIAN PRESS

RCMP chief, watchdog feud heats up

The head of the RCMP is bidding the force's complaints commissioner farewell by accusing him of creating an "inaccurate" picture that suggests the Mounties have obstructed the work of the federal police agency's independent watchdog.

The final weeks of Paul Kennedy's term as the chair of the Commission for Public Complaints Against the RCMP have been marked by a public squabble with RCMP Commissioner William Elliott.

Kennedy, who leaves his post at the end of the month, released two damning reports last week while describing the force as a "massively inert" organization that is resistant to change.

And in both cases — first a report into the death of Robert Dziekanski and then another into the use of a Taser on a 15-year-old girl in the Northwest Territories — Elliott posted letters on the RCMP website taking exception with the timing of the reports and Kennedy's comments about the force.

The recent tension comes weeks before Kennedy steps down after four years on the job.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE PHOTO

One-third of all members of Parliament are now on Twitter, including Prime Minister Stephen Harper, who has more than 30,000 followers.

MPs learn how not to tweet

No tweets allowed about that bagel you had for breakfast.

Only a twit would have a staffer tweet in their place.

Those are among the dos and don'ts that parliamentarians are learning as communication firms across Canada leap into the growing business of social media training to help politicians negotiate the minefield of Facebook and Twitter.

Social media is fraught with electoral rewards and risks of embarrassing gaffes going viral, but communications strategist Ken Chapman has a message for politicians who are too timid to tweet.

"You cannot ignore this and you cannot avoid it," he says, "I think Twitter is to 21st-century politics what television was to 20th-century politics."

The Google search engine now incorporates the latest tweets and Facebook updates in its results, giving social media posts a new audience with exponential growth.

That means when a politician puts a toe out of line — tweeting, as Liberal MP Michelle Simson did, that Conservative MP Dean Del Mastro "should grow up (not out)" — it can force an apology in the House of Commons, as Simson did later the same day.

That has also created a business opportunity for the traditional media massagers who have spent decades giving advice on public speaking and public style.

Chapman's Edmonton-based company, Cambridge Strategies Inc., has refocused from traditional media training to online media training. He advises clients to use the devices themselves, stay away from tweets or brief messages that are too personal, and to forget the notion that online posts are frivolous.

Chapman uses a formula to help politicians make the best use of social media. You should spend 50 per cent of your time listening to the conversation, 25 per cent responding to it and 25 per cent creating your own comments, he says.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Advice for MPs

Some advice from media consultants for politicians new to social media:

- Write the messages yourself.
- Be positive.
- Make your messages interesting
- Don't filter out legitimate criticism. Respond to it.

Charges laid in church attack

London police have laid charges in an attack last month on an 81-year-old woman who was knocked to the ground and robbed by two men as she was leaving a church Christmas dinner.

Police have arrested one man and have issued a warrant for another.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Residents allowed to return home

Residents who were forced to flee the Los Angeles-area foothills amid fears that heavy rains would cause mudslides were told they could return to their homes yesterday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

Palace denies Queen is passing off duties

Buckingham Palace has denied a newspaper report that the Queen is passing more of her duties to her grandson, Prince William. Royal spokesman Miguel Head said the report that William, left, is being groomed to be "shadow king," bypassing his father Prince Charles, is nonsense. The Mail yesterday said on its front page that the Queen is handing over a substantial part of her public duties to the prince to ease the 83-year-old monarch's workload. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

BAGHDAD Iraq's top security chiefs said yesterday that the U.S. military had warned them in advance about an imminent attack but the tip came too late to act on before last week's deadly Baghdad bombings against government sites. An Interior Ministry official, meanwhile, said 13 al-Qaida-linked suspects have been detained in connection with last week's bombings, the third of their kind since August. At least 127 people were killed and more than 500 wounded in the bombings.

PANDAS Australian and Chinese officials urged two bamboo-munching giant pandas yesterday to consider reproducing during their 10-year residency Down Under. Wang Wang and Funi, on loan from China, arrived at the Adelaide Zoo two weeks ago but were officially welcomed yesterday by leaders at the opening ceremony of their new enclosure. "Look after yourselves, keep healthy and active, eat your greens and maybe, when the time is right, think about starting a family," Gov. Gen. Quentin Bryce said in a speech directed at Funi and Wang Wang, who were sprawled against nearby boulders, chewing bamboo shoots.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Supporters rally around an Iranian student reportedly forced to wear women's clothing by authorities by posting hundreds of photos of men in women's garb. Scan this barcode for the full story.

Hundreds detained in Copenhagen

Police crack down on protesters as officials meet for private climate talks

Danish police outnumbered protesters yesterday, detaining more than 200 people on a second day of demonstrations as environment ministers met for informal talks to advance negotiations on a new pact.

Meanwhile, church bells in Denmark and other countries rang 350 times, a number that refers to what many scientists consider a safe level of carbon dioxide in the air.

Police stopped an unauthorized demonstration headed toward the city's harbour and carried out a security check of some of the participants, Copenhagen police spokesman Flemming Steen Munch told The Associated Press.

The hundreds of demonstrators were outnumbered by police officers in riot gear who surrounded them. Steen Munch said police found bolt-cutters and gas masks when they searched a truck that led the demonstration. At least 200 activists were detained, he said.

Go Green

A day earlier, police had detained nearly 1,000 activists at the tail end of a 40,000-strong march toward the suburban conference centre where the 192-nation UN climate conference is being held.

The detainees were from a range of European countries as well as the U.S, Kenya, Belarus, Japan, Mongolia, China and Turkey, police said.

Only 13 of them remained in custody yesterday. Of those, three — two Danes and a Frenchman — were set to be arraigned in court on preliminary charges of fighting with police.

ANTON UNGER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Danish police arrest demonstrators yesterday in Copenhagen.

Police said they detained the activists when some of them started breaking windows of buildings in downtown Copenhagen. A police officer received minor injuries when he was hit by a rock thrown from the group and one protester was injured by fireworks, Steen Munch said.

Critics blasted the Danish law that allows police to make preventative arrests if they believe a demonstration will turn violent and hold suspected troublemakers for up to 12 hours without a court arraignment.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

$1.1-trillion spending bill goes to Obama's desk for approval

WASHINGTON The U.S. Senate yesterday passed a $1.1-trillion spending bill with increased budgets for vast areas of the federal government including health, education, law enforcement and veterans' programs.

The 1,000-page-plus package, one of the last essential chores of Congress this year, passed 57-35 and now goes to U.S. President Barack Obama for his signature.

After the vote, the Senate immediately returned to debate on health-care legislation that has consumed its time and energy for weeks. The spending bill combines six of the 12 annual appropriation bills for the 2010 budget year that began on Oct. 1. Obama has signed into law five others.

The final one, a $626-billion defence bill, will be used as the base bill for another catch-all package of measures that Congress must deal with in the coming days. Those include action to raise the $12.1-trillion debt ceiling and proposals to stimulate the job market. The FBI gets $7.9 billion, a $680-million increase over 2009; the Veterans Health Administration budget goes to $45.1 billion from $41 billion; the National Institutes of Health receives $31 billion, a $692-million increase.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Nobel laureate dies
Economist Paul A. Samuelson, a Nobel laureate and winner of the National Medal of Science, died yesterday. He was 94. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Students say fake pictures used by Iran

Hundreds of students at Tehran University renewed anti-government protests for a second week yesterday, accusing authorities of fabricating images of demonstrators burning photos of the Islamic Republic's revered founder.

Students moved to the forefront of opposition on the streets with massive protests last week. They say authorities are using the images of burning photos as a pretext to crack down on their protests, which have helped revitalize the pro-reform movement.

State television has repeatedly shown images, ostensibly taken during student-led protests Dec. 7, of unidentified hands burning and tearing up pictures of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. It was a grave and illegal insult against the former leader, still widely respected in the country. The elite Revolutionary Guard, the country's most powerful military force, called for the trial and punishment of those responsible.

Student activists say authorities are trying to discredit them just as they begin to put up a new, powerful challenge to the regime. The opposition's mainstream leaders have struggled to dent the power of President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and Iran's clerical leadership.

Students at Tehran University played a major role in street demonstrations in support of the 1979 Islamic Revolution that toppled the pro-U.S. shah and brought Iran's clerical rulers to power.

Reformists contend Ahmadinejad was re-elected by massive vote fraud, a belief that brought hundreds of thousands of protesters into the streets at the height of post-election unrest. The protests evolved into a broader confrontation against the country's ruling theocracy, but eventually died down in the face of a harsh crackdown by security forces stifled the street demonstrations.

Former president Mohammad Khatami, a prominent opposition voice, also said students were not behind the destruction of the photos.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTO

An anti-government and pro-reform Iranian female student displays a poster yesterday of the late revolutionary founder Ayatollah Khomeini during a demonstration at Tehran University.

Hostages released, but violence continues in Philippines

Tribal gunmen freed 47 hostages in the southern Philippines yesterday, but the region continued to be wracked by violence as suspected Islamic radicals staged a deadly jail break in which dozens of inmates were freed, including comrades accused of beheading marines.

47 The number of hostages freed in the Philippines yesterday. They were among more than 75 people snatched Thursday.

The three-day hostage standoff in Agusan del Sur province and the jail raid on Basilan island come on the heels of a political massacre last month in a nearby frontier region in which 57 people were killed. The back-to-back crises underscore the complexity of conflicts raging in the country's south, an impoverished region awash with firearms, outlaws, political warlords and Muslim insurgents.

The remaining 47 hostages freed were among the more than 75 people, including children, who were snatched Thursday by gunmen trying to evade police serving warrants for a string of charges, including murder.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

POLITICS Houston became the largest U.S. city to elect an openly gay mayor, with voters handing a solid victory to City Controller Annise Parker after a hotly contested run-off. Several other U.S. cities, including Portland, Oregon, Providence, Rhode Island, and Cambridge, Massachusetts, have openly gay mayors, but none are as large as Houston.

COMMISSION Brazil's government plans to create a truth commission to investigate torture used by military dictatorships of the past, the nation's human rights minister said yesterday. Paulo de Tarso Vanucchi said President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva will propose a law creating the commission later this month. Brazil never prosecuted members of the armed forces for human rights abuses during its 1964-85 dictatorship.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Based on Natural Resources Canada Fuel Consumption Guide, 2010 ratings based on GM Testing in accordance with approved Transport Canada test methods. Your actual fuel consumption may vary. Excludes other GM models.

Toddler killed by Rottweiler at family party in Florida

Authorities say a Rottweiler attacked and killed a Florida toddler during a party Saturday night at his aunt's home. Police say 20-month-old Dallas Walters was attacked when he dropped a cookie and went to grab it. Family members pried the dog off the child but the boy died in hospital. Animal control has taken possession of the dog. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

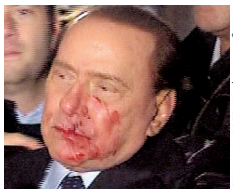
Berlusconi hit at rally

Italian premier struck in face with statuette

An attacker hurled a statuette at Italian Premier Silvio Berlusconi, striking the leader in the face at the end of a rally yesterday and leaving the stunned 73-year-old media mogul with a broken nose and bloodied mouth.

Police said the 42-year-old man accused of attacking Berlusconi as he signed autographs in Milan was immediately taken into custody. Berlusconi was rushed to a hospital where he was being held overnight.

The attack occurred at a time when Berlusconi, one of Italy's wealthiest men, is embroiled in a sex scandal, a divorce case with his wife and public protests demanding his resignation.



RAI TG3 VIA AP/TV/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

This video image shows Italian Premier Berlusconi after he was hit by a thrown statuette.

TV showed the stunned leader with blood under his nose, on his mouth and under one eye as he was lifted to his feet by aides. He was hustled into the back of a car, but immediately got out, apparently to show he was not badly hurt.

Police identified the man they were questioning as Massimo Tartaglia. They said Tartaglia didn't have any criminal record but had suffered psychological problems in the past.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Romania **Warding off evil**

VADIM GHIRDA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A dancer from Moldova, east of Romania, wearing a heavy bear costume, gets help to stand up by colleagues yesterday in the Village Museum in Bucharest, Romania. In pre-Christian rural traditions, dancers wearing coloured costumes or animal furs, toured from house to house in villages singing and dancing to ward off evil. In Romania, due to very low income levels in rural areas, the tradition has moved to the cities where dancers travel to perform the ritual for money.

U.K.'s Brown works to smooth Afghan relations

Britain's prime minister worked yesterday to smooth relations with Afghan President Hamid Karzai and renew Britain's commitment to the war despite its unpopularity back home.

Prime Minister Gordon Brown said he would ship helicopters, equipment and roadside bomb surveillance devices along with 500 reinforcements he recently announced will join 9,500 British troops deployed mostly in southern Afghanistan.

Brown recently sharply criticized the Afghan leader, saying that Britain would not continue risking the lives of its soldiers to defend a corrupt government.

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camh
Centre for Addiction and Mental Health
Centre de toxicomanie et de santé mentale

PARTICIPANTS NEEDED FOR A STUDY OF TREATMENT OF SEASONAL DEPRESSION

The Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, in affiliation with the University of Toronto, is looking for volunteers for a study of light therapy and negative ions in the treatment of seasonal depression (also called seasonal affective disorder).

The study involves completing questionnaires and having 4 weeks of treatment with either a light therapy or negative ion generator device.

Eligibility:

- Male or female from 18 to 65
- Suffering from seasonal depression (seasonal affective disorder)
- No significant eye disease
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Comment

Dealing with racism

Is there any point in reporting bigoted comments on TTC?

InTransit

Ed Drass

metronews.ca/intransit

The looming TTC fare hike has turned buying and depositing fares into an emotionally charged process — and it's bringing out the worst in some people. Recently, I saw a heated confrontation at College station where a customer yelled at an Asian booth collector, "Go back to Chinatown."

This occurred after hearing from a Metro reader who said his girlfriend witnessed a racist comment made by a subway collector at St. Clair station. When token sales were restricted in early November to five each, the booth attendant allegedly told a customer it was because Chinese people were hoarding token rolls. When told the comment was racist, the collector repeated it.

Just shy of 2010 — in one of the most diverse cities on the planet — how isolated are such incidents?

"Just shy of 2010 — in one of the most diverse cities on the planet — how isolated are such incidents?"

There is little formal recourse when a customer makes a discriminatory remark, but what if the words come from a uniformed employee working for a public agency?

In a largely positive review of the TTC, a Metro Ottawa transit columnist reported how a subway collector at Union station ridiculed his British accent.

Is there any point in reporting bigoted comments? As discussed here many times, the TTC is restricted by labour agreements from telling customers how personnel are disciplined. Officially, complainants can be told only that the issue was "dealt with accordingly." With no evidence, riders are basically told, "Trust us, we take your concerns seriously."

That's about what TTC spokesperson Brad Ross gave me when I followed up on the St. Clair case. He would not divulge how the specific allegation was processed, nor would he reveal general numbers about discipline, such as how many employees are reprimanded, suspended or fired.

I was unable to speak with transit union president Bob Kinnear for this column, but he has stated in the past that, for privacy and safety reasons, customers cannot be told details of discipline against individual workers. He has also complained that TTC customer representatives do in fact reveal more than allowed.

If nothing can be formally divulged, how are we to know if any real measures are taken?

Ironically, it is Kinnear who offers the only indication: He has said that TTC supervisors routinely treat customer complaints as "gospel;" their validity is rarely questioned.

Readers, if you have experienced what you believe is racial discrimination while using transit, let me know. If possible, send copies of official complaints.

Toronto-based transport writer Ed Drass covers transit issues every Monday; transit@eddrass.com.

MICHAEL DE ADDER

Views

Impress others by talking about nothing

HineSight

Anne Hines

metronews.ca/hinesight

Today in our series on prepping for the holidays: The Art of Small Talk

Many people consider "party manners" to be an oxymoron. Much like "too much coffee." Or "bad sex." However, at seasonal social events certain standards of behaviour are required that may not be necessary at other kinds of get-togethers, like, say, family gatherings. Among these is being prepared to speak pleasantly to people.

The ability to make small talk is the foundation of social success. That, and knowing that an open box of chocolates with the nougat ones missing does not make an acceptable hostess gift.

Loosely defined, "small talk" is the art of conversing with someone you don't know, on a subject you don't care about, and for reasons you can't quite figure out. It is called "small" to indicate the amount of enjoyment you are likely to experience while doing it.

Small talk is such a vital human social skill that famed Polish anthropologist Kasper Malinowski Bronislaw (I'm not making this up) wrote many books on the art of polite conversation, but since these were largely full of observations about the weather, including, "My, isn't it cold here in Gdańsk in December?" and "Yes, it is," these were not big sellers. Later, Bronislaw studied small talk among the Kula tribe of the Trobiand Islands, expanding his repertoire to, "My, isn't it hot here in July?" and "Yes, it is."

Appropriate topics for "small talk" are easy to determine. Simply stick to topics that no one under any circumstance, in any universe, could possibly really care about and will take offence. This means, at all costs, avoiding themes such as politics, religion, any sport, whether Avatar was worth the $300 million, and dolphins.

Safe topics include: Lego sculptures, bobsledding and cheese. To be completely safe, restrict your remarks to, "Kittens are nice," and "I am holding a glass of wine." Tip: To improve your chances of being invited back, make sure you actually are holding wine as you say it. It is also OK to make critical comments about other people, though, as a general rule, it is best to wait until they are not actually present.

If, at the end of a conversation, you find you've managed to convey no information whatsoever about anything to anyone; congratulations. You've mastered the art of small talk.

Anne Hines is an author and humour writer. She has written three novels and one collection of nonfiction humour.

Worth mentioning

New Hampshire eyeing change to adultery laws

The original punishments have been softened to a $1,200 fine, yet some lawmakers think it's time for the 200-year-old crime of adultery to come off New Hampshire's books.

39 Convicted adulterers in New Hampshire years ago faced standing on the gallows, up to 39 lashes, a year in jail or a fine of 100 pounds. The punishment has been relaxed to a misdemeanour and a fine of up to $1,200 — with no jail time.

Seven months after the state approved gay marriage, lawmakers will consider easing government further from the bedroom with a bill to repeal the adultery law.

"We shouldn't be regulating people's sex lives and their love lives," state Rep. Timothy Horrigan said.

"We shouldn't be in the business of regulating what consenting adults do with each other," Horrigan said.

Some recently questioned whether South Carolina Gov. Mark Sanford's admitted extramarital affair with a woman in Argentina made him subject to his state's 1880 criminal law against adultery. The penalty is a fine of up to $500 and a year in jail.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Strike hits five-month mark

The strike at Vale Inco in Sudbury has hit the five-month mark. More than 3,000 miners, members of United Steelworkers Local 6500, walked off the job July 13. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Business

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EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

U.S., Japan strike flight agreement

AIR TRAVEL The U.S. and Japan reached a landmark agreement Friday to relax limits on flights between the two countries, opening up the possibility of broader cross-border airline alliances and more options for air travellers.

Under the agreement, which still must be finalized by both governments, airlines from both countries would be allowed to select routes and destinations based on consumer demand for both passenger and cargo services without limitations on the number of U.S. or Japanese carriers that can fly between the two countries or the number of flights they can operate.

It would remove restrictions on capacity and pricing, and provide unlimited opportunities for co-operative marketing arrangements between U.S. and Japanese carriers. The agreement likely will prompt Japan Airlines and All Nippon Airways to seek joint ventures with U.S. airlines. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Joint venture

- A joint venture allows airlines to share cost and revenue on certain flights regardless of which airline owns or flies the aircraft.

Business in brief

INDIA Volkswagen AG started production of its first compact car in India Saturday, hoping to capture up to 10 per cent of the country's fast-growing automobile market within the next six years, the company said. The Polo, a compact hatchback, rolled off the lines at Volkswagen's factory in Pune, an auto hub a few hours outside Mumbai, shortly before noon.

OIL PRODUCTION Kuwait's oil minister says OPEC probably won't change its production levels when it meets next week. Sheik Ahmed al-Abdullah al-Sabah made the comments to state news agency KUNA yesterday. The agency quoted him as saying "it was unlikely the bloc would change output strategy" when it meets in Angola Dec. 22.

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Cautious mood for TSX

Rally looks stretched as investors search for higher stocks

Investors looking for an end-of-year rally to push the Toronto stock market past its highs for the year will likely be in for a disappointment in trading ahead of Christmas.

The TSX moved lower last week, leaving it about 450 points below the 11,878 high for the year set in early November.

The index is up about 28 per cent year to date, and more than 50 per cent from the lows of early March, but the rally has been looking stretched as investors look for a reason to send stocks higher in an environment many analysts call fairly-valued.

"When it comes to the markets ... right now optimism and momentum have stalled," said Paul Vaillancourt, director of asset allocation at Franklin Templeton Managed Investment Solutions.

"The equity indexes have not broken through some highs — which is somewhat troublesome — volumes are quite low and I think there's probably not too much upside in the next month or two."

Another issue hobbling markets this week is with traders taking time off for the holiday season. Also contributing to a cautious mood in the week ahead are the consequences of huge amounts of government debt taken on to stimulate economies out of recession.

Standard & Poor's last week lowered its outlook on Spain's debt rating to "negative" from "stable," reflecting "the risk of a downgrade within the next two years." S&P had already cut Spain's rating to AA+ from AAA in January. Earlier in the week, rival Fitch had downgraded its rating on Greece.

And Moody's Investor Service also cut the ratings of six companies linked to the government in Dubai to junk status and said the U.S. and Britain are at risk of having their ratings downgraded if they don't get their finances under control.

"There's no doubt at this point that the fundamentals have stabilized or improved — but those are the economic fundamentals," Vaillancourt said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Review

- In its Financial System Review, the Bank of Canada said future earnings will have to be driven by revenue growth, as opposed to past quarters when results were driven by cost cutting. The bank added that equity markets could go into correction mode if earnings growth proves to be disappointing.

m.metronews.ca

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GM in talks to sell old Saab technology

AUTOMOTIVE General Motors Co. is in talks to sell parts of Saab Automobile's old technology to a Chinese company and the entire brand to another buyer, a person familiar with the negotiations said yesterday.

The person said GM plans to sell the technology behind the Saab models 93 and 95 to Beijing Automotive Industry Holdings. The person spoke on condition of anonymity.

The person said the sale of the old technology will help GM financially but won't stand in the way of a deal to sell the entire Saab brand and its current production to another buyer. Negotiations for such a deal are also taking place, the source said, but declined to say with whom.

General Motors earlier this month said it will phase out the Saab brand if it doesn't find a buyer for the brand before the end of December. About 4,500 jobs at Saab are at stake.

However, GM said new potential buyers had emerged after Sweden's Koenigsegg Automotive AB dropped out of a deal to buy the company in November. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

THOMAS KIENZLE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In this file photo, the logo of Saab is seen in front of a car dealer in Stuttgart, Germany. A person familiar with negotiations said yesterday that General Motors Corp. is in talks to sell parts of Saab Automobile's technology to Beijing Automotive Industry Holdings and the rest of the company to a second buyer.

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Orangutan in danger
Asia's only ape — the orangutan — is in deep trouble. Climate change is adding to a range of pressures on its last remaining strongholds in the rainforests of Indonesia. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Going Green

A new threat

The biggest threat to African elephants is no longer poachers but climate change. Longer dry seasons mean the elephants have to move further to find food and water — and that brings them into conflict with humans trying to protect their crops. WWF

EDITOR: BEN.RYCROFT@METRONEWS.CA

The burden of Alberta's oilsands

Canadian politicians pushing for U.S. to shoulder costs of carbon emissions

Environment Minister Jim Prentice appears to be in agreement with former Liberal prime minister Paul Martin on who should pay for the environmental costs of Alberta's oilsands energy.

Martin has been quoted as saying the U.S. should shoulder some of Canada's carbon emissions burden because it's the chief user of energy from the oilsands.

Prentice, who is at the Copenhagen climate summit, says if Americans buy Canadian oil, the environmental costs should be absorbed on the U.S. side of the border.

Prentice told CTV News that's why the government is working so closely with the U.S. to make sure we have a harmonized system and a continental approach to reducing emissions.

The environment minister says whether it is regulations, or a cap and trade system, it must be integrated or we'll end up losing jobs in Canada and undertaking costs that are not our responsibility.

Martin, who served several years as finance minister, said he fully supports oilsands development.

But he also said development should proceed at a "rational pace," and the resulting environmental burden should be shared by the U.S.

The U.S. House of Representatives recently passed a bill that contemplates border tariffs on so-called "dirty oil," such as that from Alberta's oilsands.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

JEFF MCINTOSH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

A tailings pond reflects the Syncrude oilsands mine facility near Fort McMurray, Alta.

1,000

Denmark police reported they had arrested over 1,000 demonstrators following weekend long protests at the climate summit in Copenhagen. Protest organizers estimated 100,000 people had joined the march from downtown Copenhagen.

Greenpeace lashes Obama on climate

ROMINA MCGUINNESS
Metro World News

There's little that Naidoo won't do...

Executive Director of Greenpeace International, Kumi Naidoo began his career as a human rights activist at the age of 14 in his native South Africa fighting against apartheid.

In the light of the Copenhagen climate conference Naidoo speaks to Metro about speaking out against President Obama, the struggle that is Copenhagen and most importantly, a legally binding treaty.

Q You recently spoke out against Obama's decision to back down on some of the commitments of Copenhagen...

METRO WORLD NEWS

Kumi Naidoo became the first African to head up Greenpeace.

A Ever since the Bali Summit, we have known that climate change was a major issue. When Obama was running for president, he was always speaking about the perils of the planet. He should therefore know that the more delay, the more risks of peril we run from climate related impact.

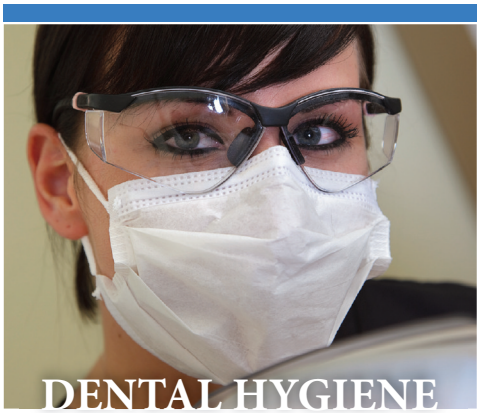
The more we delay action, the more we risk putting peoples' lives in peril. We want a binding treaty...We will push for this until the last minute.

Q Do you believe you speaking out made a difference?

A Some of our response has shifted the tone. Ban Ki Moon was pulling back and is now back to using the terms "Treaty" and "Binding." Even the United States and China are slowly changing their stance.

Q What do you hope will come out of the summit in Copenhagen?

A To push for a binding treaty in Copenhagen. Recently, dominant governments such as the United States have lowered their expectations and commitment towards fighting climate change.



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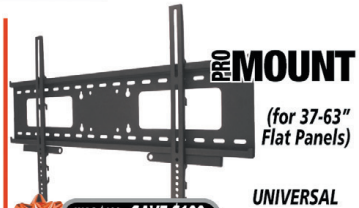

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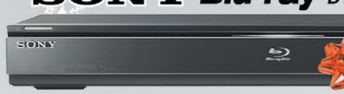

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Denver's Marshall sets record

Denver Broncos receiver Brandon Marshall, left, broke Terrell Owens' NFL record for receptions in a game with 21. Marshall set the record yesterday on Denver's final offensive play of a 28-16 loss to Indianapolis. Owens caught 20 passes for San Francisco Dec. 17, 2000. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sports

Nesbitt strikes gold

Christine Nesbitt raced to victory in the 1,000 metres yesterday on a golden weekend for the long-track speedskater, while the women's pursuit team added a silver and the men's team earned bronze. Nesbitt, from London, Ont., won in a time of one minute 13.36 seconds to claim her second World Cup victory in as many days. THE CANADIAN PRESS

EDITOR: DON.MCHOULL@METRONEWS.CA

Blue Jays re-sign Bautista

BASEBALL The Toronto Blue Jays moved to beef up their outfield yesterday by re-signing the versatile Jose Bautista to a $2.4-million US, one-year deal and added speedster Joey Gathright on a minor-league contract.

They also reached preliminary agreement on a $2-million, one-year deal with catcher John Buck, who was non-tendered by the Kansas City Royals Saturday, and brought back Raul Chavez on a minor-league deal a day after non-tendering the backstop.

Jose Bautista

The Buck deal is pending a physical.

GM Alex Anthopoulos declined comment on Buck, but said both Bautista and Gathright will be given the chance to win a starting job during spring training and he's still looking to bring in another candidate for the outfield.

Additionally, injured right-hander Dustin McGowan agreed to a $500,000, one-year contract.

Bautista, a 29-year-old who can play all three outfield positions plus third base, hit .235 with 13 home runs and 40 RBIs in 113 games last season.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Turkoglu comes through

Forward has season-high 23 points in win over Rockets

NBA

Rockets 88 **Raptors** 101

AT

Hedo Turkoglu finally showed the Toronto Raptors what he can do.

The forward added a season-high 23 points to Chris Bosh's game-leading 27 yesterday as the Raptors defeated the Houston Rockets 101-88.

The Raptors (11-15) found more ways to get the ball to Turkoglu, who responded with a more aggressive effort than he has shown so far this season.

"Today, I got the ball more and the chance to be more aggressive," Turkoglu said. "As long as I do those things I'm going to look for the best opportunity for myself and try to find my teammates to get them easy shots."

Turkoglu, who was acquired from the Orlando Magic in the off-season, also had six rebounds and five assists and remained a force even after picking up his fifth foul in the fourth quarter.

"I think we got the ball into his hands in different times with a new set that we put in today," head coach Jay Triano said. "He was able to turn the corner quite a bit.

"We're going to give it to him. He's not going to get it necessarily off the first pass but maybe off the second and third pass."

Carl Landry came off the bench to lead Houston (13-10) with 25 points, while Luis Scola had 21 points and a game-high 15 rebounds and Aaron Brooks added 20 points.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Toronto Raptors Chris Bosh and Hedo Turkoglu celebrate yesterday after defeating the Houston Rockets 101-88 at the Air Canada Centre.

Woods loses first major sponsor

Global consulting firm Accenture Ltd. has ended its relationship with Tiger Woods, marking the first major sponsor to cut ties altogether with the golfer since his alleged infidelities surfaced and he announced an indefinite leave from the sport to work on his marriage.

"... the company has determined that he is no longer the right representative for its advertising."
Accenture's statement on Tiger Woods

In its first statement since the Woods' scandal erupted, Accenture said yesterday the golfer is "no longer the right representative" after the "circumstances of the last two weeks." The move ends a six-year relationship during which the firm credited its "Go on, be a Tiger" campaign with boosting its image significantly. Accenture has used Woods to personify its claimed attributes of integrity and high performance.

"After careful consideration and analysis, the company has determined that he is no longer the right representative for its advertising," Accenture said, adding that "it wishes only the best for Tiger Woods and his family."

The firm plans to immediately transition to a new advertising campaign, with a major effort scheduled to launch later in 2010. An Accenture spokeswoman declined to comment further. Advertising firm Young&Rubicam, which has handled the company's Tiger Woods ads, also would not comment on the move.

One of the risks of advertising tied to a celebrity is that "your image gets carried by someone you can't control," said Jonathan Bernstein, president of Bernstein Crisis Management.

"They definitely understand there's damage," Bernstein said of Accenture.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sports in brief

SOCCER Arsenal scored twice in the second half yesterday to win 2-1 at Liverpool and keep the pressure on Chelsea and Manchester United at the top of the Premier League. Victory lifted Arsenal to 31 points, three fewer than defending champion United and six fewer than leader Chelsea.

SOCCER Sevilla moved back into third place in the Spanish league with a 1-0 win at Sporting Gijon on yesterday, while Mallorca moved into the top five with a first ever victory at Osasuna.

SOCCER Serie A leader Inter Milan was held to a 1-1 draw at regional rival Atalanta yesterday after being reduced to 10 men, while city rival AC Milan lost 2-0 at home to Palermo.

HOCKEY Tyler Cuma of the Ottawa 67s has been called up to Canada's world junior championship team selection camp to replace injured defenceman Patrick Wiercioch of Maple Ridge, B.C., was unable to skate as camp opened yesterday at the Brandt Centre in Regina.

NBA The New York Knicks signed free agent Jonathan Bender, marking the oft-injured forward's return to the NBA after a three-year absence. Bender was selected out of high school by Toronto with the fifth overall pick in the 1999 draft and was acquired by Indiana in a trade Aug. 1, 1999.

TENNIS Ottawa's Gabriela Dabrowski became the first Canadian to win the Orange Bowl tennis tournament in 27 years yesterday, knocking off top-seeded Kristina Mladenovic of France 6-3, 2-6, 7-5. The unseeded Dabrowski is the first Canadian to capture the 18-and-under title since Canadian Tennis Hall of Famer Carling Bassett did it as a 15-year-old in 1982.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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HALLS
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Massa set to get back behind wheel
Felipe Massa's return to racing continued yesterday when Ferrari said the Brazilian driver will get behind the wheel of a Formula One car in the "next few days." Massa hasn't raced since suffering life-threatening injuries in a crash at July's Hungarian Grand Prix. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Looking down the rabbit hole

It'sCalledFootbal

Ben Rycroft

metronews.ca/itscalledfootball

How far down the rabbit hole are you willing to go Alice? It's a question the Canadian Soccer Association (CSA) needs to be asking itself.

Over the weekend, news broke that UEFA is investigating Bulgarian referee Anton Genov for allegedly fixing a game between Canada and Macedonia.

The game, which was nothing more than a friendly, saw an unusually high amount of Euros wagered on it — specifically on the over bet of 2½ total goals and on the number of penalties to be called.

The game ended 3-0 for Macedonia and there were four penalties called — including one very questionable call that came in the final minute of a game with no implications or other importance.

UEFA has suspended Genov and barred him from all competitions while it investigates.

Meanwhile, the response from the CSA and the Macedonians has been alarmingly predictable.

"The Canadian Soccer Association confirms that none of its players or staff were in any way associated with the alleged match fixing incident recently reported in relation to the Nov. 14, 2009, match which featured Macedonia vs. Canada. The Canadian Soccer Association has not been contacted by UEFA or FIFA in respect of this match," CSA general secretary Peter Montopoli wrote in an email.

Montopoli sent me that email just hours after the story broke. It's their standard PR approach but it raises questions about how the CSA could confirm anything about that game after having just learned of it.

Had it conducted an investigation already? Had it spoken to all the players? Had it checked to see if it had any new BMWs kicking around?

My guess is not. But that's the approach most federations take when confronted with match-fixing allegations — they choose not to go down the rabbit hole for fear of what they might find.

In no way am I suggesting that Canadian players were involved. But it is the responsibility of the CSA to fully find out. It needs to do the due diligence, talk to its players and be sure.

Otherwise, years from now, we may wake up in Wonderland with Europe and wonder what happened.

Watch Ben Rycroft on the It's Called Football show every Monday at metronews.ca; ben.rycroft@metronews.ca

CHARLIE RIEDEL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Buffalo Bills cornerback Reggie Corner breaks up a pass yesterday intended for Kansas City Chiefs wide receiver Chris Chambers. The Bills won 16-10.

Bills hold on for win

Defence and a kicker helped the Buffalo Bills hold on — for once.

Rian Lindell kicked three field goals and the Bills intercepted Matt Cassel four times to beat the struggling Kansas City Chiefs 16-10 yesterday.

Buffalo (5-8) overcame three turnovers and an ineffective passing game to finally close out a win in the fourth quarter. The Bills had lost seven times this season when they were within a touchdown headed into the final 15 minutes, pulling this one out with two interceptions in the final 2:11.

Kansas City (3-10) got a career-high 143 yards and a touchdown from Jamaal Charles, but couldn't overcome another shaky game from Cassel.

The Chiefs quarterback had three interceptions in the fourth quarter, overthrew Mark Bradley twice on potential long touchdowns and was sacked four times. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

22 in a row

- Peyton Manning threw three TD passes in the first 23 minutes, then was picked off three times, but the Colts earned their 22nd consecutive regular-season win with a 28-16 victory over the Denver Broncos.

Martin dominates Howard to gain Olympic curling berth

Olympic silver medallist Kevin Martin will get his opportunity to go for gold at the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver.

The Edmonton skip lived up to his top billing yesterday, beating longtime rival Glenn Howard 7-3 in the final of the Canadian Olympic curling trials.

"The guys played an awesome game today. They really set it up well for us. What a great day," a jubilant Martin said moments after the game. "We put a lot of pressure on them early in the game."

Martin, who started the game with the hammer, took control early and was leading 5-1 after five ends.

Martin, 43, last represented Canada at the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake, where he settled for silver after losing to Norway's Pal Trulsen in the final.

"We made it in 2002. Now to get another crack at it, it's a dream come true," said Martin.

"I think there's so much going on right now through the body that I haven't thought of that yet. We've just got to cherish this moment. That's a big win," he added.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Olds College opens Canadian Equine Centre for Innovation

Last week, Alberta's Olds College celebrated the grand opening of the Canadian Equine Centre for Innovation. The centre will incorporate leading-edge expertise, facilities, technology, and applied research to provide unique human resource solutions for the $15.7-billion equine industry. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Workology

Grad tax credit coming?

In a new report on pre-budget consultations, the federal Standing Committee on Finance recommends Ottawa create a refundable tax credit for new graduates, and make the credit available to those who move to designated regions and work in their field of study.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

Workology in **brief**

ST. CLAIR COLLEGE GETS $1 LEASE FOR J-SCHOOL BUILDING: Under a deal announced last week, St. Clair College's journalism school will set up shop in downtown Windsor at the former Salvation Army building and pay the city $1 a year for the facility. The only condition is that the college must hold the property for 15 years. With the property, St. Clair hopes to double its current journalism enrolment and create programming for up to 200 students

UCAN APPOINTS PRESIDENT: University of Canada West announced last week that Dr. Verna Magee-Shepherd has been named acting president of the institution, and will assume her responsibilities at once. A graduate of the Universities of British Columbia and Calgary, Magee-Shepherd has held several teaching and administrative positions in the PSE sector, including acting president of the British Columbia Institute of Technology. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Rule No. 1: Don't worry

RAFAEL BRUSILOW
for Metro Canada

Ah, the office holiday party — eagerly awaited for months, just as eagerly wished away from memory by unfortunate souls. Everyone has "that" office party story where someone crossed the line or did something incredibly stupid and sometimes the anxiety related to the party itself can be just as personally traumatizing.

Given that it all takes place among people you share your work with or owe your job too, the fun of the office holiday party can quickly turn to fear and regret.

Martin M. Anthony, professor of psychology at Ryerson University and author of the Shyness and Social Anxiety Workbook, says some anxiety is natural but often people imagine a much worse outcome than what is likely to happen.

When it comes to things like letting an inappropriate joke slip through, spilling your drink or mispronouncing someone's name, Anthony says it's important not to sweat the small stuff because, for the most part, other people won't either.

"A lot of times when we make these minor gaffes, we are the often the person most concerned about it. Many times it doesn't matter that much to others," Anthony said.

If you truly want to avoid those legendary water-cooler disaster moments, Anthony can't stress enough that limiting your alcohol consumption is crucial.

"When people are anxious they often drink more at parties, which can make you more uninhibited. Alcohol actually has the same physical effect on the brain as many anti-anxiety medications, but some anxiety is good because you need to monitor your behaviour to not offend people," Anthony said.

For people who are shy or feel uncomfortable making small talk, the holiday office party can seem downright stressful but Anthony suggests it represents an obstacle that is worth overcoming. Trying to avoid making small-talk because you're afraid of making a faux pas just compounds the fear and potentially closes doors on relationships with people that could have been beneficial.

"Avoidance maintains the fear, it keeps it alive, because you never deal with it. You have to force yourself to deal with it. It's true people are evaluated when they make small talk but they're also evaluated when they avoid making small talk," Anthony said.

If you're new in the office and worried about not having enough to say, plan out a few talking points in advance and don't set yourself up mentally to fail.

"Think in advance of the kinds of things you want to talk about and challenge your own anxious thoughts," Anthony said.

Don't expect to be a perfect social butterfly at all times and don't worry about pauses and silent moments in a conversation — they are natural.

"A lot of people who are nervous about making small-talk are particularly worried about those little silences that happen during small talk. Silence doesn't instantly mean you're boring – all conversations eventually settle, so don't be afraid of it," Anthony said.

If you don't want to embarrass yourself at your holiday party this year, limiting your alcohol consumption is crucial.

"Some anxiety is good because you need to monitor your behaviour to not offend people."
Martin M. Anthony

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N.B. universities need international-recruitment strategy
Last week, Mount Allison president Robert Campbell described New Brunswick's universities as a economic sector that could brighten the province's bleak demographic picture. METRO NEWS SERVICES

What a cheesy job

OddJobs

Diane Peters

Metronews.ca/oddjobs

Scott Mckenzie started in theatre, but his true love was cheese.

Scott McKenzie wishes he could say the dairy farm in the tiny Nova Scotia town he grew up in had a big influence on him. But his family ate cheese from the grocery store.

And McKenzie, now 41, had a bigger taste for the theatre at the time. He studied drama and education at Concordia University in Montreal, and eventually moved to Toronto where he acted, directed, wrote and danced.

But 15 years ago, he decided to change careers. "I've always said theatre is something you do because you can't not do it." He took a job as a waiter while he though it out.

He dabbled in other careers, taking up massage therapy at one point. But then he realized he was meant to work with food and drink. "This is the stuff I love, so I should be doing it all the time."

By the time he was working a manager in the high-end Auberge du Pommier, he decided he needed a specialized skill to go farther in the industry.

Everyone he knew was getting into wine. But seven years ago, he read The Cheese Plate by Max McCalman. "That's what I want to do," he thought.

So he enrolled in the first ever courses offered by the Cheese Education Guild. After graduating — and now able to call himself a fromager — McKenzie immediately found himself in demand.

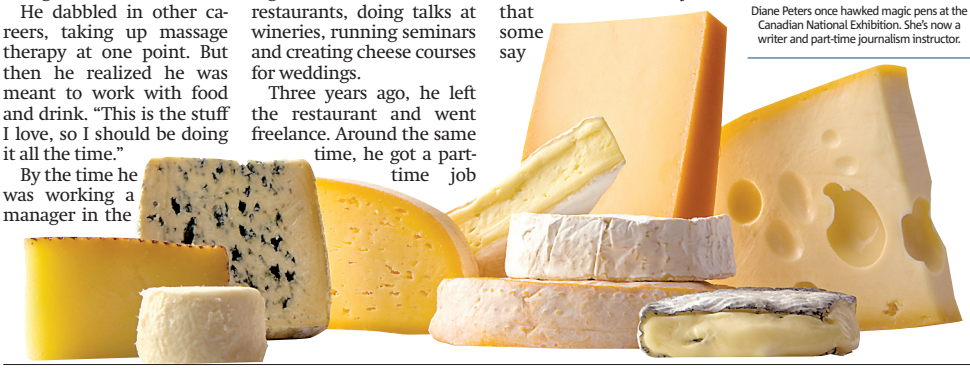
Whenever he wasn't at his manager job, he was doing freelance work at other restaurants, doing talks at wineries, running seminars and creating cheese courses for weddings.

Three years ago, he left the restaurant and went freelance. Around the same time, he got a part-time job at George Brown College, coaching students in the school's restaurant.

To keep up on the latest in his industry: "I eat cheese from morning 'til night." Breakfast is a hunk of Saint Marcellin, a Swiss cheese rich in omega 3 fatty acids. Whenever he can, he stops by Toronto's St. Lawrence Market or a cheese shop for an array of cheeses: He'll set up as many as 20 on a board and do a tasting for himself.

You'd think that'd mess with his health but McKenzie is trim and has low cholesterol levels. He credits cheese's enzymes that some say help your body break down fat.

Health benefits aside, more people are getting into gourmet cheese. "I think cheese in Canada is where wine was 20 years ago, I think it's going to go through the same crazy surge the wine industry experienced."



The Lowdown

Job title: Fromager
Salary: Depends on what you're doing, and how much you do it
Education/training: Courses through organizations like the Cheese Education Guild; the new Professional Fromager Certificate McKenzie is launching at George Brown College; tasting and reading on your own
Best Part of the Job: "People are so interested, they're so excited to find out more about cheese."
Worst Part of the Job: "Inconsistency. I can't ever say no to anything, there's no regularity to it."

Diane Peters once hawked magic pens at the Canadian National Exhibition. She's now a writer and part-time journalism instructor.

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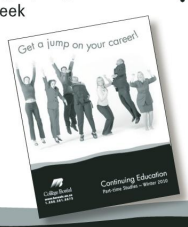

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Should essay writing be a university course?

It's essay crunch time on campus. Kelsi O'Rourke had three papers due last Wednesday in women's studies, neuroscience and psychology.

But as she worked late, the Brock University student would click on an unusual online game to remind herself about essay structure, forming arguments and citing sources in scholarly style.

The flashy new web tutorial called Essay-Zone, designed by Brock staff, uses graphics, jokes and quizzes to teach students how to write a post-secondary essay.

It's one of the more high-tech tools universities are using as they scramble to shore up the writing skills of students who they say, without Grade 13, bring less maturity and knowledge to the post-secondary table.

It's a concern at universities across the GTA.

"As much as high school tries to prepare you for university essays, it can never prepare you enough — I'm still handing in essays in second year that I think will get better marks than they get," said O'Rourke, 19, a psychology major.

"So I found it helped to have a tool I could click on at any hour because I've never had anyone actually teach me how to write a university essay."

Jill Brindle, Brock's learning skills manager, designed the online help for students who were too shy or self-conscious to get help face-to-face. "We made it like a game — very playful, with humour and lots of click-and-drag activities that give immediate feedback." Now used by more than 2,000 Brock students — some classes give two to 15 per cent of the class mark for finishing the tutorial — Essay Zone has drawn interest from universities in Montreal, Calgary, Texas and Hong Kong.

But using the tutorial with students is just one way Brock professor Andrew McDonald tries to bridge students' gap in writing skills. He revamped his first-year European history course to spend more time on the skills of research, writing and formulating a thesis.

"We have come to realize that writing skills are very weak and it's no longer possible to just ignore that," said McDonald, "so I spend less time on content now and more on analytical and writing skills.

"Students really need quite a bit of assistance with the mechanics of research. You just cannot go into a first-year class and expect they know how to write an essay."

Just because a student is able to get an A+ on an essay in Grade 12 does not mean they will achieve those heights at university.

"We have come to realize that (students') writing skills are very weak."
Brock Professor Andrew McDonald

Workology in **brief**

BCIT FACES CUTS: British Columbia Institute of Technology president Don Wright has announced that 82 full-time positions at the school will be eliminated, and the cuts will include management, teaching, and support staff positions.

PFIZER CONTROVERSY: Many prominent ethicists and researchers have signed a petition protesting the appointment of Dr. Bernard Prigent, vice-president and medical director of Pfizer Canada, to the governing council of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research.

FNUC VP FRAUD TRIAL SET: Wes Stevenson, formerly employed as the First Nations University of Canada's vice-president of finance, will be going to trial for fraud, following the completion of a preliminary hearing this week.

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COLLEGE TRAINING SINCE 1979

Bachelor reject Rycroft ties knot
Nearly a year after being rejected on national television by Jason Mesnick, former Bachelor contestant Melissa Rycroft is finally a married woman. Rycroft swapped vows with her fiancé of six months on Saturday in Mexico. USMAGAZINE.COM

Entertainment

No more Vuitton
Madonna has been dropped as the face of luxury brand Louis Vuitton. The singer was signed to appear in a string of ads for the fashion house's 2009 campaign. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Here comes Oscar bait

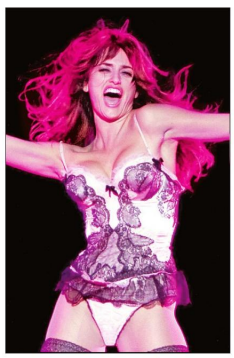
MONICA WEYMOUTH
Metro World News

As the year comes to an end, theatres are seeing a breed of movies that are different than your average popcorn flick. They are very serious but inspiring; they are packed with big names and an anointed new star for good measure; they take a well-calculated risk or two. They are, in short, shameless Oscar baits, and studios are throwing them at the screen in order to qualify for the 2010 Academy Awards.

We've broken down some of the more conspicuous ones that are currently playing in theatres or are on the cusp of release, but we're not making any predictions.

INVICTUS
Weighty and/or ambitious subject: Based on a true story in which Nelson Mandela teams up with captain of South Africa's rugby team to bring together the country post-Apartheid.
Star power: It's megawatt here: Morgan Freeman and Matt Damon star; Clint Eastwood directs.

PRECIOUS
Weighty and/or ambitious subject: Pregnant for the second time by her father, an obese, illiterate, abused teen learns to read in an attempt to improve her life.
Star power: The buzz is surrounding newcomer Gabourey Sidibe, but Mo'Nique, Mariah Carey and Lenny Kravitz are also on the bill.



The Lovely Bones, left, and Nine are among a slew of current and upcoming films gunning for Oscar attention.

NINE
Weighty and/or ambitious subject: An Italian director deals with his mid-life crisis by getting tangled up with a number of women, all the while singing and dancing — it's based on the 1982 musical.
Star power: It's impossible to assemble more A-list, leading ladies: Judi Dench, Nicole Kidman, Marion Cotillard, Penelope Cruz, and Sophia Loren.
Wild card: In addition to that A-list cast, Fergie and Kate Hudson are on board as, respectively, a prostitute and a fashion reporter.

THE LOVELY BONES
Weighty and/or ambitious subject: After her rape and murder, a young girl watches over her family and killer from heaven, hoping that someone will find her body and working through her own grief.
Star power: Alice Sebold wrote the bestselling book; Peter Jackson is directing; and Mark Wahlberg and Rachel Weisz star.
Wild card: While the novel is haunting and elegant, Peter Jackson likes to blow things up. And then blow them up again.

AVATAR
Weighty and/or ambitious subject: A paralyzed ex-Marine agrees to travel to a distant planet — which happens to be a computer-generated, 3-D world — for the chance to walk again via an avatar body. And, naturally, exploit their resources.
Star power: The cast includes Sam Worthington and Sigourney Weaver, but everyone's watching director James Cameron, who hasn't done a feature film since 1997's Titanic.
Wild card: There's rumoured to be an almost $500 million US price tag on this years-in-the-making project, and it kind of looks like fanboy porn.

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Hart gets Pink tattoo

Carey Hart will always have something to remember Pink by. Hart had his wife's likeness tattooed on his leg. "Wait til you see it in person! So insane!!!" he tweeted to one of his friends. PEOPLE.COM

You've got 'presents'

Only a year ago, the typical holiday online present was an ornament or icon posted on a friend's Facebook profile. But as we live more of our lives online, virtual gifts no longer suffice as a means of self-expression, but as objects (albeit pixilated) with offline value.

Take, for example, Little World Gifts. The British iPhone App allows iPhone and iPod Touch users to share with one another 3-D interactive curios and trinkets that you can touch, move and play with — like a rotating single red rose or a swiveling Las Vegas Elvis.

"Little World Gifts redefines virtual gifts, giving them the charm and personality of a 'real world' present," explains co-founder, Katie Lips. "We want people to see virtual gifts as more than representations of real world objects."

But that's only part of the story. In China, local portal Tencent reported $730 million US in revenue last year. Their top revenue-maker? Digital goods: virtual pets or clothing to accessorize an individual's social network profile.

So, how do you get people to pay for something they're used to getting for free? It's a question that bedevils the music and film industries, and it's no less of a challenge for anyone trying to charge for an app for Facebook, MySpace or Bebo.

A new approach is emerging: Make it cheap; really cheap. Charge just a few cents for a bingo card, an accessory for a virtual pet or a weapon for a game character. Get enough people signed up and, once you've added up all those pennies, you've made a tidy bundle.

Virtual gifts, such as Little World Gifts, are becoming more and more representative of real world objects.

In Asia, these "nanopayments" have been earning social networks big money for years. In 2007, Tencent raised $523 million in revenue — four times as much as Facebook — in a country where the average monthly wage is less than $20.

Only 13 per cent of that revenue came from ads. Two-thirds came from Internet services like games and digital goods: "gifts" like virtual flowers, background music for users' profiles, virtual pets, fashion items to dress avatars in, and so on.

One of Tencent's top revenue-makers is a service where users can buy virtual items like clothes and jewelry to outfit an online avatar, according to digital strategy and research company Plus Eight Star. Others include games that are free to play but allow users to buy items to help them with tasks such as raising pets, according to the research company.

Mix of Six

HOLIDAY

Where: Downsview Park

Walk or drive through Downsview Park's Trail of Lights holiday light show. 35 Carl Hall. $7 and $20. downsviewpark.ca.

BENEFIT

When: 8 p.m.
Where: Phoenix Concert Theatre

Kathleen Edwards, Sarah Harmer, Sam Roberts and others perform as part of a fundraiser for SickKid. $39.50. 1-866-943-8849.

COMEDY

Where: Comedy Bar

Impatient Theatre Co presents Who Do You Think You Are?!, a sketch about condo living and identity, impatient.ca

DANCE

Where: Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts

The National Ballet of Canada presents The Nutcracker. $45 to $121. Visit thenutcracker.ca.

CHARITY

Where: Bluma Appel Theatre, 145 Queen St. W.

Virtuosity: A Song And Dance Revue by Vivian Reed takes place through Jan. 23. $25-$75. Visit stlc.com.

HOCKEY

Where: Air Canada Centre

It's a battle for Ontario as the Toronto Maple Leafs take on the Ottawa Senators. Visit mapleleafs.nhl.com.

Entertainment in brief

SPECIAL APPEARANCE Sarah Palin made a surprise appearance on The Tonight Show with Conan O'Brien on Friday - and turned the tables on actor William Shatner. In recent appearances on the late-night television show, Shatner has adopted a serious pose and recited some of Palin's less serious observations. He was brought out again Friday to read passages from Palin's blockbuster Going Rogue. The carefully selected passages included ones about rapper Kid Rock and stalking sheep.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Do Red Cars Cost More To Insure?

The Car You Drive Can Impact Your Car Insurance Rate

Is Your Car To Blame For High Insurance Rates?

Many of us have heard that red cars cost more to insure, but is it true? In a word – NO. The colour of your car plays absolutely no part in the calculation of your insurance premium. In fact, that question is not even asked on the auto insurance application. However, the year, make and model of the car you drive does affect your rate. Insurance companies look at things like theft, safety ratings, and the claims history of each vehicle when setting their rates. So cars that historically have fewer claims and better safety ratings, on average, will be cheaper to insure.

Should I Trade In My Car To Get A Better Rate?

Probably not. If you are in the market for a new or used car, considering the cost of insurance (or the "total cost of ownership") when making your purchase decision makes a lot of sense. However, switching cars for the sole purpose of getting a lower rate may not be your best option. Why? Because the type of car you drive is just ONE of a host of variables used by insurance companies in setting your rate. And there are far better ways of lowering your car insurance costs…if you know where to look.

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Rate Comparison

Driving Record	Lowest Price	Highest Price	Price Difference
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1 Ticket	$1,018	$2,552	$1,534
1 Accident	$1,849	$3,753	$1,904

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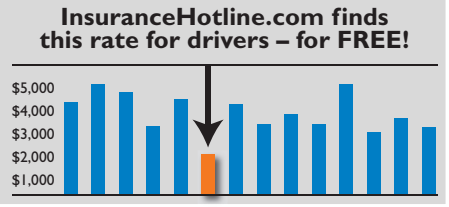

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Boyle cancel Canadian date

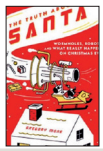
Susan Boyle's Canadian dream will have to wait. The Scottish singing sensation has again cancelled a trip north of the border. Boyle was to appear for a performance and autograph event on Dec. 21 at First Canadian Place. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Legacy of the Special Olympics

Make No Small **Plans**

Author: Jim Jordan
Publisher: Chill Media Inc.
Price: $29.99 (Hardcover)

FORTY YEARS AGO, Toronto athlete and sportscaster Harry (Red) Foster brought the very first Special Olympics to Canada. Make No Small Plans commemorates his vision, a legacy that has grown into a cross-country opportunity for the intellectually disabled to hone physical skills and that has spawned more than 150 international chapters. Wayne Gretzky opens the book, which contains hundreds of photographs, original documents and detailed historical accounts. Tracing the nonprofit's Canadian origins, it delves into the birth of provincial chapters and transition points that leveraged it to national revere.



The Truth About **Santa**

Author: Gregory Mone
Publisher: Bloomsbury
Price: $21 (Hardcover)

YOU BETTER WATCH out. You better not cry. You better not pout. I'm telling you why: Santa Claus has embedded listening devices in your Christmas tree ornaments, he's been reading your e-mails and listening to your phone conversations. These are just some of Santa's strategies, that writer Gregory Mone explains in his hilarious, science-rooted book The Truth About Santa. The guide describes how elf cloning, on-demand organ printing, memory-erasing milk and wakefulness drugs, among an extensive list of artificial means, allow Santa to visit every house on Christmas Eve and how he's survived so long.

Yours **Ever**

Author: Thomas Mallon
Publisher: Pantheon
Price: $33 (Hardcover)

IN HIS 1984 examination A Book of One's Own, American author Thomas Mallon tackled the diary, exploring the literary form's prevalence and relevance to different kinds of writers. Now, in Yours Ever, Mallon shifts his magnifying glass to a dying literary art — letters. Divided into nine categories — absence, friendship, advice, complaint, love, spirit, confession, war and prison — the book surveys all kinds of written exchange, from love letters to suicide notes. Florence Nightingale, Winston Churchill and wife Clementine, and English author E.M. Forster are among those whose letters Mallon mines in this thorough, explorative collection.

Brian Coulton/for Metro Canada

BookPicks

Gainsbourg and Beck collaborate on album

JÉRÔME VERMELIN
Metro World News

Charlotte Gainsbourg — daughter of '60s pop icon Serge Gainsbourg — is releasing an album jointly created by U.S. cult musician Beck. Metro World News caught up with her.

Charlotte Gainsbourg, the daughter pop icon Serge Gainsbourg, worked in collaboration with musician Beck on her new album.

Q IRM is a very eclectic album — were you surprised with the result?

A I wouldn't say surprised because we worked on it for months, but I discovered new universes that I didn't know existed with Beck!

Q Did you have a list of ideal collaborators?

A Not really. I've always wanted to work with Radiohead, but that wasn't possible. I was recording with Air and met producer Nigel Godrick who was also recording with Beck at the same time. And that's how we met.

Q Did you ask Beck directly?

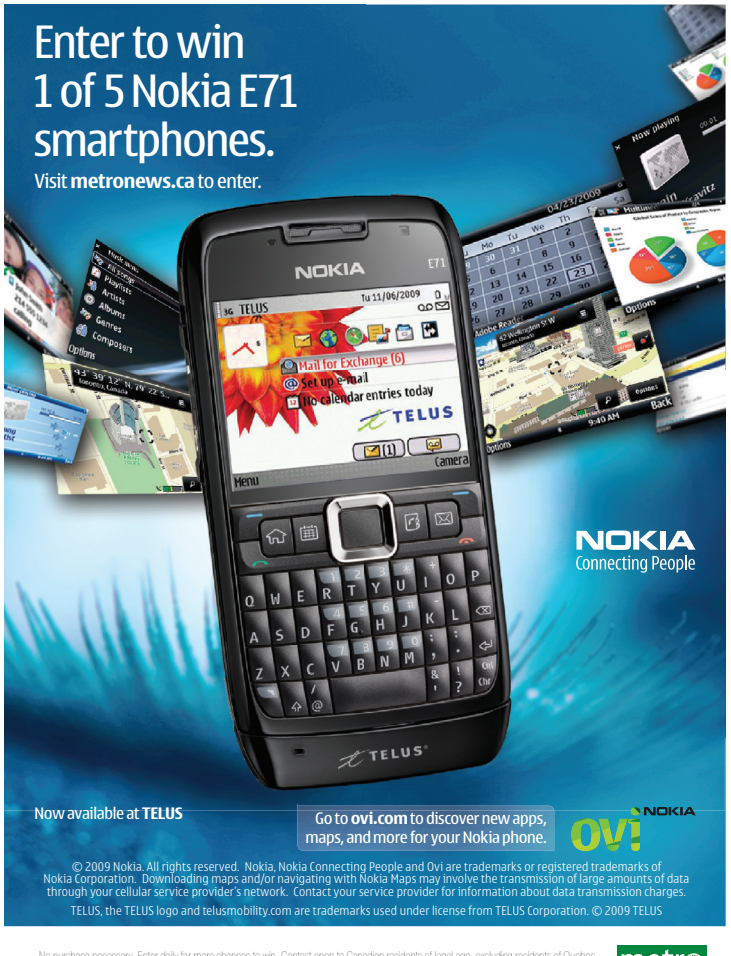
A No, my label called his manager. I didn't want him to feel uncomfortable if he didn't feel like doing it. We worked together for five days, then three months later he sent me the songs. I was immediately convinced and I really wanted him to do the entire album.

Q How did you find working with him?

A It was just incredible to watch him actually create one song after the other. He has a huge amount of creativity. I had the impression he woke up with his guitar and started composing all day. He would think of lyrics while talking to the sound engineer. The album was going in many directions at the same time and, the more we tried new things, the better I liked it.

Q Beck seldom collaborates — why do you think he chose you?

A Well, I never asked him openly whether he was happy or not to work with me. Instead I tried to figure it out by calling his wife and his manager. From what they told me he was very happy ... but he is a very secret guy and I don't know much about him.



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Green Gables sells for US $37,500
A first edition of Anne of Green Gables has sold for a record US$37,500 at auction. The sale was made Friday at Sotheby's in New York and eclipses the previous record of US$24,000 for the same title, which was set in June 2005. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. customs arrest sci-fi writer Watts

Police arrested a Canadian science fiction writer after he became aggressive and refused to comply during an inspection by U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers, a government official said Saturday.

Peter Watts of Toronto was detained Tuesday in Port Huron in Michigan, Customs spokesman Ron Smith told The Associated Press. Smith said Watts was trying to cross into Canada at Blue Water Bridge when his vehicle was selected for inspection.

Smith said Watts got out of the vehicle and became "noncompliant" and "aggressive," so officers detained him.

On Watts' blog, comments attributed to him Friday denied he had been aggressive and said he had been punched in the face during the arrest. Watts did not immediately respond to an email seeking comment Saturday.

If convicted...

- If convicted, Peter Watts of Toronto faces up to two years in prison and a maximum fine of $2,000.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Port Huron police Capt. Jim Jones told the Times Herald that Watts appeared to be angry when officers inspected the black sport utility vehicle that he was driving. Jones told the newspaper that the officers ordered Watts back into the vehicle and when he refused, they tried to handcuff him. He said a scuffle ensued in which Watts choked one of the officers and an officer used pepper spray to subdue him.

Jones did not immediately respond to a message seeking comment Saturday. Port Huron Police said Jones was the only person in the department releasing information on the case.

Smith said the U.S. attorney's office declined to prosecute and that the case was turned over to city police in Port Huron, across the border from Sarnia, Ont.

Watts was charged with assaulting, obstructing and resisting a police officer, according to St. Clair County District Court records. He was released on a $5,000 bond and is due back in court Dec. 22, the court records said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

King donates to troop's trip home

GOODWILL Author Stephen King and his wife are donating money so 150 soldiers from the Maine Army National Guard can come home for the holidays. King and his wife, Tabitha, who live in Bangor, are paying $13,000 US toward the cost of two bus trips so that members of the 3rd Battalion, 172nd Infantry Unit can travel from Camp Atterbury in Indiana to Maine for Christmas. The soldiers left Maine last week. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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It's a boy!
Kendra Wilkinson and her husband, Indianapolis Colts player Hank Baskett, have welcomed their first child, a boy. Hank Baskett IV was born via C-section early Friday morning in Indianapolis. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Entertainment in brief

MOVIES The Wizard of Oz is a family favourite, but the film — celebrating it's 70th anniversary this year — isn't on Liza Minnelli's must-watch list. Minnelli says it's tough to watch because of the fictional horrors her mother, Judy Garland, endures. She said: "I just loved her so and for some reason The Wizard of Oz bothers me when I see it. They do terrible things to her. . . . That's 'cause it's my mom." Minnelli reflected on The Wizard of Oz during her special, Liza's At The Palace. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Cooking with Gordon

Foul-mouthed chef invites viewers to cook with him

For years, viewers have watched Chef Gordon Ramsay reduce aspiring and even seasoned chefs to sliced and diced vegetables on shows like Hell's Kitchen and Kitchen Nightmares. So the prospect of cooking alongside him in a public forum is enough to make even the most hardened critic turn into a beaten egg white.

Chef Gordon Ramsay shows television critics how to make Baked Alaska at a press tour in Pasadena, Calif., in August.

That was the challenge last summer as critics from across North America were invited to prepare a dish with the hot-headed TV chef. Now viewers will get the same opportunity when Gordon Ramsay: Cookalong Live premieres tomorrow on Global and Fox (repeating the next night on the Food Network).

The Scottish-born chef and restaurateur stood before critics last summer at the annual press tour in Los Angeles and barked orders while dozens of scribes attempted to whisk egg whites into something resembling a peak.

"(Have you) never made a Baked Alaska before?" Ramsay shouted from the stage where he stood with whisk and bowl.

Most critics struggle with half-baked story ideas. We're usually the crabs being served on press tour, not the ones trying to prepare anything edible.

"Where the hell did you get that shirt from?" he asked one critic dressed for the beach. "If your cooking is as bad as your dress sense" he continued, dropping one of his usually bleeped F-bombs.

Still, this wasn't the rude Ramsay one is used to seeing on television. He was here on this day to promote his show. He promised he'd be on his best behaviour on Cookalong Live, too, as he helps homemakers try to prepare a pretty complicated meal in real time as they watch the hour-long special next Tuesday night.

He was looking forward to the challenge because, for one thing, he says he never really gets to cook properly on his other shows. "The biggest complaint I've had from, not just family, but from viewers, customers that are in the restaurant, is that 'We don't see you cook enough," he says. The French-trained chef, who has earned 16 Michelin stars, feels working in a far less pressurized TV environment should help him show off his culinary skills — as well as control his potty mouth.

The live special will present a full 60-minute challenge for chefs at home, with Angel Hair Pasta with shrimp, chili and tomatoes, Steak Diane with sauteed potatoes and peas and a Quick Tiramisu all on the menu. A well-stocked kitchen will be in order; a full list of ingredients can be found at globaltv.com. That's where you'll also find certain preparation tips online that will help home chefs stay with the program. THE CANADIAN PRESS

TO	Vu	SD	C		7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime 12/14/09	265	353	2	TVO	Time Team (N)		The Agenda With Steve Paikin		Midsomer Murders		D-Day to Berlin		Agenda-Paikin
	211	331	3	GTV	ET Canada	Entertainment	House (HDTV)		(9:01) Lie to Me (N)		NCIS: Los Angeles (N)		News Final
	215	343	4	OMN1	Two/Half Men	The Office	Omni News: Italian Edition (N)		Vivere V	Omni News:	Law & Order: Criminal Intent		Metropia
	210	302	6	CBC	Wheel Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	The Grinch	Frosty	Mr. Bean	Stuart McLean	CBC News: The National		The Hour
	214	344	7	CITY	Law & Order: SVU		How I Met	Accidentally	Trauma (HDTV)		The Jay Leno Show (N)		News
	212	313	8	CTV	etalk	Access H.	*Shrek 2* ★★★ (2004, Comedy) Voices of Mike Myers.				CSI: Miami (HDTV) (N)		CTV News
	218	345	11	CHCH	*Whale Rider* ★★★ (2002, Drama) Keisha Castle-Hughes.				*Grease* ★★★ (1978, Musical) John Travolta.				News at 11 (N)
	-	-	14	-	Family Guy	The Simpsons	Omni News: S. Asian Edition		Omni News: Cantonese Edition		Two/Half Men	King/Queens	Cold Case
	213	326	15	SUN	The Insider (N)	George Lopez	*A Young Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court* ★★				The Insider	Hitchcock Pres	Becker
	-	387	16	CBS	Inside Edition	Access H.	How I Met	Accidentally	Two/Half Men	Big Bang	CSI: Miami (HDTV) (N)		News 4 at 11
	-	385	17	NBC	The Insider (N)	Entertainment	The Sing-Off "Pilot" Eight a cappella groups compete.				The Jay Leno Show (N)		News
	-	386	18	ABC	Wheel Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Jennifer Hudson-Christmas		Find My Family (N)		Castle (HDTV)		News
	219	346	20	ACH-B	Degrassi: TNG	TMZ (N)	The Beatles on Record		Two/Half Men	Big Bang	Stargate Atlantis (DVS)		A News
	-	-	28	FOX	Judge Judy	Two/Half Men	House (HDTV)		(9:01) Lie to Me (N)		Seinfeld	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons
	-	388	61	PBS	PBS NewsHour	Time Goes By	Journey of Man						Business Rpt.
	297	652	330	WPX	Two/Half Men	Family Guy	The Vampire Diaries		The Vampire Diaries		PIX News at Ten Tong.		Two/Half Men
	296	654	331	SBK	The Insider (N)	Entertainment	Law & Order: SVU		WBZ News (N)	Frasier	The Office	Name Is Earl	Frasier
	298	653	332	TLA	The Tyra Show		According-Jim	Family Guy	KTLA News	KTLA News	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Vamp. Diaries
news	502	390	26	NW	Connect Today's biggest stories. (N)				CBC News: The National		Can Obama Save the Planet?		National
	500	500	33	CNN	CNN Tonight (N)		Campbell Brown (N)		Larry King Live (N)		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)		
	509	504	79	CNB	Kudlow Report (Live)		The Bubble Decade		Coca-Cola: The Real Story		Porn: Business of Pleasure		Mad Money
sports	405	417	22	net	NHL Hockey Ottawa Senators at Toronto Maple Leafs. (Live)					Sportsnet Con.	Sportsnet Connected		Hockey Central
	400	400	30	TSN	That's Hockey!	Monday Night Countdown	NFL Football Arizona Cardinals at San Francisco 49ers. (HDTV) (Live)						
	411	457	58	OLN	Ghost Hunters International		Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Survivorman		Ghost Hunters International		Bounty Hunter
	417	406	81	SC	Pass Time	Pass Time	SuperCars	SuperCars	Barrett-Jackson		Barrett-Jackson		Car Crazy
family	551	542	25	YTV	A Flintstone Christmas		Malcolm-Mid.	Fresh Prince	8 Simple Rules	What I Like	Family Biz	Prank Patrol	Adrenaline Proj
	554	544	45	TEL	Scooby-Doo	Total Drama	Total Drama	6TEEN	Futurama	King of the Hill	American Dad	Futurama	Robot Chicken
	556	540	51	FAM	Sonny Chance	Zack & Cody	Overruled!	Han. Montana	Wizards-Place	Latest Buzz	Ned's School	Cory in House	That's-Raven
cable variety	602	567	27	W	*The Man Who Saved Christmas* (2002, Docudrama), Ed Asner				*All She Wants for Christmas* (2006, Drama) Monica Keena.				Maxed Out
	570	580	29	MM	Secret Life of American Teen		The Vampire Diaries		The Vampire Diaries		So You Think You Can Dance		50 Moments
	615	520	31	A&E	Criminal Minds "P911"		Intervention "Nikki"		Intervention "Jennifer"		Hoarders (HDTV) (N)		Jacksons
	700	800	35	TLN	Centrovetrine	Sky TG 24	I Liceali				George Lopez	George Lopez	Lopez Tonight
	571	581	36	MMM	The Daily Fix		Ranked!		All Access		Entourage	Wild 'n Out	mmtop10.ca
	575	583	38	CMT	Amer. Funniest Home Videos		Reba	Reba	According-Jim	According-Jim	Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Due South
	616	521	39	SHO	The Outer Limits		*The Christmas Choir* (2008, Drama) Jason Gedrick.				Bones		NCIS
	620	523	40	BVO	Chasing the Tango High		Christmas Together		Johnny Cash Christmas		Johnny Cash Christmas		Law & Order
	601	562	41	SLC	Rich Bride, Poor Bride		10 Pounds	10 Pounds	Instant Beauty Pageant		Plastic Makes	Plastic-Perfect	ET Canada
	522	506	43	HIS	Convoy: War of the Atlantic		Patton 360		Battles BC		Seven Signs of the Apocalypse		
	625	548	44	COM	Air Farce	22 Minutes	Corner Gas	Name Is Earl	The Simpsons	South Park	Merry F... Christmas		Daily Show
	600	564	46	H&G	House Hunters	Property Virgin	For Rent	Income Prop.	House Poor (N)	My First Place	House Hunters	House Hunters	Holmes-Homes
	294	529	47	TBS	Family Guy	Family Guy	House-Payne	House-Payne	Law & Order: SVU		*Hitch* ★★★ (2005, Romance-Comedy)		
	576	582	49	BET	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live		The Unit		The Unit "Bait"		The Unit		Mo'Nique
	627	528	50	SPC	Stargate Atlantis (DVS)		Star Trek: Voyager		*Manticore* ★ (2005, Science Fiction) Robert Beltran.				Sanctuary
	581	566	52	MTV	Peak Season	Peak Season	Peak Season	Peak Season	Peak Season	Peak Season	Peak Season	After	MTV Live
	618	524	54	TROP	Raymond	Raymond	The Outer Limits		ET Canada	Comeback	Family Guy	Raymond	Raymond
	603	561	56	FOOD	Ricardo	David Rocco	Food Jammers	Food Jammers	Top Chef: Las Vegas		At the Table	At the Table	Restaurant
	261	394	60	V	Murder, She Wrote		Husband & I	Summer Wine	*Secret Santa* ★★ (2003, Drama) Jennie Garth, Steve Eckholdt.				Wait for God
	621	527	63	STR	Look-A-Like	TMZ	The Ellen DeGeneres Show (N)		The View (HDTV) (N)		The Dr. Oz Show (N)		TMZ
	553	546	65	TRE	Backyardigans	Night Garden	Max & Ruby	Franklin	Little Bear	Bucket-Dinos	Babar	Big & Small	Max & Ruby
	526	507	249	VIVA	Cold Case "Red Glare"		Missing "Off the Grid"		The Closer (Part 1 of 2)		Cold Case "Red Glare"		Mediums
	300	601	301	M1	(6:20) *Out of Control*		Sanctuary "Nubbins"		Dexter "The Getaway"		Californication	U.S. of Tara	Lock 'n Load
	305	612	306	PIX	*License-Drive*	*Black Pearls* ★ (1990, Drama)			*Jackass: The Movie* ★★ (2002, Comedy)			(10:25) *19 Months*	
	520	146	-	DISC	Daily Planet (N)		MythBusters		Dirty Jobs "Camel Rancher"		Canada's Worst Driver		Daily Planet
	637	-	-	TVLND	Red Green	Red Green	Fantasy Island		Hart to Hart		Andy Griffith	Phil Silvers	Bizarre
	605	-	-	FASH	First Class All the Way		FashionTele	RAW	Canada's Next Top Model		Fashion on Ice 2007		1st Class Way

critics' corner

Johnny Cash Christmas Special

'Tis the season for red and green — and the Man in Black. Johnny Cash is gone, but his holiday performances linger on in television specials he did in the 1970s, which Bravo! Canada is airing over two evenings. In this edition from 1976, Cash's guests include Roy Clark and Merle Travis and Tony Orlando. 9 PM on BVO

Mr. Bean

Mr. Bean gets even more excited during the holiday season in this special episode. His adventures include befriending a Salvation Army band, trying to get a giant Christmas tree home and failing to find the perfect gift for a woman — who subsequently leaves him. 9 PM on CBC

Stuart McLean's Vinyl Cafe Christmas Pageant

The host of the popular radio show "The Vinyl Cafe" takes his act to television in this holiday special, in which he relates his determination to put on a holiday pageant for the people of Belleville, Ont., whether they like it or not. 9:30 PM on CBC

Box office

1. **The Princess and the Frog:** $25 million US
2. **The Blind Side:** $15 million
3. **Invictus:** $9 million
4. **The Twilight Saga: New Moon:** $8 million
5. **A Christmas Carol:** $6.9 million
6. **Brothers:** $5 million
7. **Old Dogs:** $4.4 million
8. **2012:** $4.4 million
9. **Armored:** $3.5 million
10. **Ninja Assassin:** $2.7 million

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kenya's Style
Kenya Hunt
Read the blog at metronews.ca/kenyasstyle

For complete online movie listings, trailers, reviews and tickets, visit:
metronews.ca/movies

Sims spills the beans and Eckhart splits
Aaron Eckhart reportedly ended his month-long relationship with Molly Sims because she confirmed to the press that they were dating, according to Star magazine. "He's an incredibly private guy," a source says. METRO WORLD NEWS

Celebrity Buzz

Good Charlotte's good time buddy

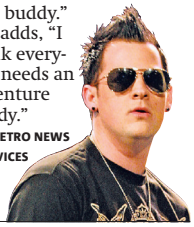
JUST FRIENDS While some reports are calling Benji Madden Holly Madison's boyfriend, the former Girls Next Door star is labeling him her "adventure buddy," people.com reports.

"I don't want to talk about him, except that I like him," Madison said when asked about reports linking her to the Good Charlotte guitarist.

The possible coupling comes after the duo were spotted in Los Angeles at a coffee shop. The two have also flirted over Twitter, with Madden even hyping Madison's E! show with Tweets.

The blonde bombshell wouldn't say whether she and Madden are an item, calling him simply her "mysterious adventure buddy." She adds, "I think everyone needs an adventure buddy."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Divorce gets dirty

A MESSY BUSINESS With divorce proceedings under way, new details are emerging about just how upset Brandi Glanville was over her husband, Eddie Cibrian, leaving her for LeAnn Rimes. According to custody papers, Cibrian alleges Glanville slashed the tires of his motorcycle and told him that "it made her feel better," according to TMZ. The pair are battling for custody of their two children. METRO WORLD NEWS

Hudson spreading her Christmas cheer

SCROOGES BEWARE! Jennifer Hudson is on a mission to convert you, people.com reports.

"It hurts me so when I see people like, 'Whatever, Christmas is just another day,'" the self-proclaimed "holiday fanatic" told People. "I'm that person who's going to go over there and get you into the holiday spirit. And that's how I've always been."

With that kind of attitude, it's no surprise the Academy Award winner plans to help audiences across the country get into the spirit tonight with her first televised holiday special.

Jennifer Hudson: I'll be Home for Christmas features musical performances shot on location in Hudson's native Chicago (the local church where she got her start singing in the choir and the music academy where she studied, among other places). Hudson will also introduce audiences to her family, former teachers and childhood friends.

"The first thing you do for the holidays is go back home, so I went back home, and the next thing you do is spend it with all of your family and your friends in those familiar places. "That's why I chose to go back home and share it and make it personal," Hudson said.

As excited as Hudson is to share this Christmas with her fans, there's one person she simply can't wait to spend it with — her four-month-old son David Daniel Otunga Jr.

"I need to make it great for him," she says.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Holiday house hunting

PLAYING HOUSE Though they continue to dodge questions about their relationship, Bradley Cooper and Renee Zellweger appear to be ready to take things to the next level.

Sources say the pair were out looking at homes for sale in Los Angeles, according to Page Six.

"Until Renee, Bradley had a reputation as a ladies' man and a heartbreaker," a source says. "But he seems so happy with her.

"They prefer to stay in rather than hang out at show business parties, and he has already introduced her to his parents."

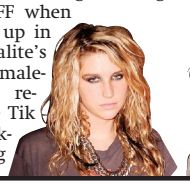
METRO WORLD NEWS

Upset stomach, upset Paris

VIOLENT ERUPTIONS Pop sensation Ke$ha wrecked her chances of becoming Paris Hilton's BFF when she threw up in the socialite's closet, female-first.co.uk reports. The Tik Tok hitmaker sang backing vocals on Hilton's album, Paris, and the two girls briefly became friends — but that ended when Ke$ha mistook the heiress' wardrobe for her bathroom.

"We were all dancing, hanging out [and] I got overexcited and ralphed (threw up) in her closet. I thought it was a bathroom," she said. "That kind of ended the relationship right there. I wouldn't want to be my friend either."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Werewolf whops rapper on live TV

BELLA, I MEAN, TAYLOR, I'LL PROTECT YOU Just weeks after Taylor Swift's appearance on Saturday Night Live, her "really close" friend, Taylor Lautner, took centre stage Saturday to host the late-night sketch show, people.com reports. In his opening monologue, Lautner hilariously defended Swift's honour by beheading a Kanye West mannequin with some impressive martial arts kicks. The New Moon star, who was on stage during the rapper's infamous VMA faux pas, reenacted the scene — making himself into a high-kicking hero by knocking West's block off and then kissing his fair maiden.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Winehouse's dad slights ex-son

A REAL CLASS ACT Amy Winehouse and Blake Fielder-Civil are definitely not back together despite their reunion last week, according to the singer's father, Mitch Winehouse, who claims Fielder-Civil made more than $8,000 US by tipping off photographers about their meet-up. "He has a funny way of showing his love. Nice earner though," Mitch posted on his Twitter account. He went on to call his former son-in-law "a liar, violent criminal and betrayer."

METRO WORLD NEWS

Celebrity tweets

Spencer Pratt outsources his gift-giving decisions, Lindsay Lohan agitates her employees, Demi Lovato admits she has a problem, and Brody Jenner isn't being a very good listener.

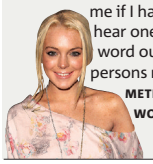
• @spencerpratt What are some gift suggestions for the best wife in the world? I know I have the smartest twitter fam so u guys will def help

• @lindsaylohan Having a heated debate w/ my security guard about politics&I'm seconds from leaving my table! Never debate over dinner!! You'll leave hungry

• @ddlovato I think I just overdosed on Schoolhouse Gummy vitamins..... THEY WERE JUST.. SO.. GOOD.

• @BrodyJenner Wow shoot me if I have to hear one more word out of this persons mouth

METRO WORLD NEWS



Rihanna won't shut Brown out

FORGIVENESS IS THE SWEETEST REVENGE Rihanna admits that she feels "embarrassed" by her past relationship with Chris Brown, but she doesn't think she'll never speak to him again.

"I can't see myself never speaking to him again. There's emotion there. I think it's possible to change," the singer tells Glamour magazine. "It's embarrassing that I fell in love with that person. He was my first big love and the more in love we became, the more dangerous we became for one another."

METRO WORLD NEWS

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Today 40% Rain and snow 3° / -5°
Tuesday Variable 2° / -6°
Wednesday 40% Flurries -4° / -11°

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Take Five

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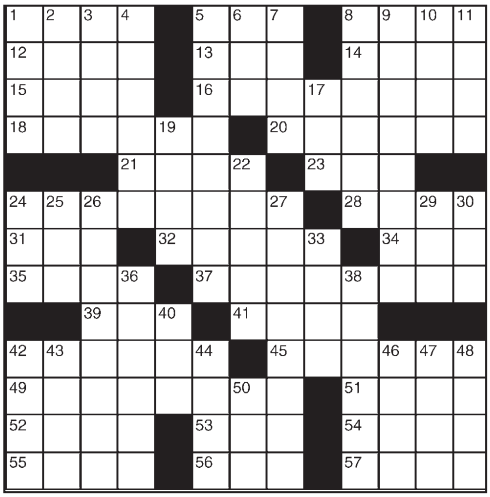


Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

		3				8		
		6	9		4	7		
9				2				1
	8	9	6		2	1	7	
	7	2	5		1	3	4	
8				7				2
		7	3		9	5		
		1				6		

ACROSS

1 One of the Three B's
5 Express
8 Pond gunk
12 Franc replacement
13 Rhyming tribute
14 Poi base
15 Cupid's alias
16 Kale cousin
18 "The O'Reilly —"
20 Penetrable
21 Historic times
23 Hair-styling aid
24 Assembled in order, as pages
28 Puerto —
31 Literary collection
32 E G B D F, on a staff
34 Promptly
35 Pocket-protector contents
37 Reason for a fat lip?
39 Roman 201
41 Laugh-a-minute
42 Big scissors
45 Killed a bill
49 Tumble like a house of cards
51 Therefore
52 Reed instrument
53 Always, in 13-Across
54 Read quickly
55 Youngsters
56 Method
57 Gets some rays

DOWN

1 — Wellington
2 Emanation
3 Gator's kin
4 Inn
5 Of a Greek philosopher
6 Big bother
7 Kennel cry
8 Ogling one
9 Yuletide pastime
10 Language of Pakistan
11 Rolling stone's lack
17 Journal
19 Exam format
22 Man of La Mancha
24 Ballplayer's hat
25 Single
26 Galahad's dad
27 UPS parcel, e.g.
29 Miler Sebastian
30 Possess
33 — gin fizz
36 Weighing devices
38 Swear (to)
40 A Gershwin
42 Edinburgh resident
43 Vagrant
44 Jet forth
46 Killer whale
47 New York cardinal
48 Dresses in
50 Mediterranean, e.g.

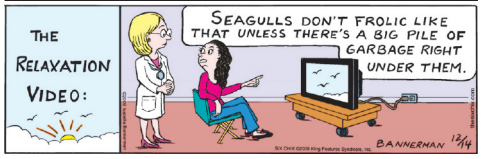
PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

	P	O	I	N	T		E	V	A	D	E	S		
H	O	O	D	I	E		D	E	N	U	D	E		
U	P	H	I	L	L		G	R	A	N	D	E		
P	E	S	O		E	W	E	S		C	Y	D		
			M	A	T	E		O	D	E				
P	A	S		T	H	A	I		I	C	E	D		
E	X	T	R	A	O	R	D	I	N	A	R	Y		
P	E	O	N		N	O	O	K		P	R	E		
		N	A	G		F	L	E	W					
A	B	E		H	I	F	I		R	A	N	K		
S	L	A	M	O	N		Z	E	A	L	O	T		
A	U	G	U	S	T		E	M	C	E	E	S		
P	R	E	S	T	O		D	U	K	E	S			

2	1	5	9	3	7	8	4	6
6	9	7	8	5	4	3	1	2
4	8	3	1	2	6	9	5	7
5	2	4	3	7	9	1	6	8
9	6	1	5	4	8	7	2	3
7	3	8	6	1	2	5	9	4
8	7	9	4	6	1	2	3	5
3	4	2	7	9	5	6	8	1
1	5	6	2	8	3	4	7	9

On the web

For more games and 60 additional daily cartoon strips, visit metronews.ca



Metro Recipe of the Day

Chicken Satay Stir-Fry

INGREDIENTS:
1/4 cup (50 ml) smooth peanut butter
1/3 cup (75 ml) coconut milk
2 tbsp (25 ml) diluted chicken stock
1 lemon, zest finely grated
1 tbsp (15 ml) vegetable oil
2 garlic cloves, crushed
1 red chili pepper, deseeded and finely chopped
12 oz (350 g) skinless chicken breast fillets, cut into thin strips
1 tbsp (15 ml) five-spice powder
1 red pepper, deseeded and sliced
2 carrots, peeled and cut into julienne strips
6 oz (175 g) button mushrooms, sliced
2 tbsp (25 ml) chopped fresh coriander

METHOD:
1. In small bowl, whisk together peanut butter, coconut milk, stock and lemon zest until blended, then set aside.
2. Heat oil in wok or large frying pan over high heat. Add garlic and chili pepper and stir-fry 30 seconds to release flavours.
3. Add chicken and five-spice powder and stir-fry 3–4 minutes until chicken has coloured all over. Add red pepper, carrots and mushrooms and stir-fry 2–3 minutes until slightly softened.
4. Pour peanut butter mixture into wok and stir-fry 2–3 minutes until chicken is cooked through and tender. Remove from heat, stir in chopped coriander and serve immediately.

SERVES 4

rd.ca

For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to rd.ca or check out **Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!**

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton sallybrompton.com

For Sally's expanded daily and weekend horoscopes, visit metronews.ca

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
A financial opportunity of some kind is certainly worth pursuing but it may not be quite as wonderful as someone is trying to make you believe.

TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21
The Sun's aspect to Uranus today will bring about some surprising behavior among a group of people you thought were ultra conservative.

GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
Chores and duties may be tiresome but you can't just forget about them, so you might as well tackle them in a more positive frame of mind.

CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22
Don't make too many plans for the next 24 hours because the approaching new moon will play havoc with your timetable.

LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
Squabbles of one kind or another are likely today but for the most part they will be good-humored.

VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22
Chances are you'll have a lot of fun today but don't overdo it or you may regret it tomorrow.

LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23
There is no point getting angry about something you would usually dismiss as not worth the effort.

SCORPIO
OCT 24-NOV 22
You may be a bit too domineering for some people's tastes today, so don't be surprised if you get a few negative comments.

SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23-DEC 21
If you can't get what you want today you will certainly get it tomorrow or the day after that.

CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20
You will be hugely enthusiastic today but watch out you don't get carried away and do something silly.

AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18
You will lose patience with someone today and it's about time. They have been leading you on for quite a while.

PISCES
FEB 19-MARCH 20
Generosity comes naturally to you but you need to recognize that giving too much away is not a good thing, either for yourself or for other people.

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